

Mark 10: 32-34

32 They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, ³³saying, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; ³⁴they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again.'

Meditation: There is palpable fear in the air. Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem and those who are following him have a strong sense that this will not bode well for Jesus. He has openly challenged the religious and social elite. They have become offended, even verbally hostile. And he is heading right for the centre of their operations: Jerusalem! But Jesus is fully aware of what he is doing and clear about his destiny. He foretells, for the third time, his capture, condemnation, torture, death and... Resurrection. Are those who follow ready for it?

Where do you fit into this scene? Are you among those who are following Jesus? Do you have a clear sense of what this involves or are you still indulging phantasies of what it can mean according to your own wishes? Where is the Jerusalem in your own life?

For some of us it's all about Covid-19. How has Covid changed your life? Are these changes permanent or temporary? What does the future hold? Are there some decisions, resolutions and directions in store for you? Remember that you are not alone. The gospel narrative is composed with a vision of Jesus/God walking the journey beside and ahead of you. Jerusalem is part of all of our lives at some point. But what difference it can make when we are consciously journeying with Jesus/God beside and ahead of us.

Prayer: We need you, O God, above us... We need you, O Christ, beside us... We need you, O Spirit, within us... We don't know what Jerusalem there is in store for us exactly in our future, O God. Maybe some of us do. But we are seeking the kind of faith in you, hope inspired by you and love infused by you that will carry us not only in our Jerusalem, but through to resurrection... Amen.