

Lent Day 25
Wednesday March 9, 2016

Reading: Mark 8.27-38

Reflection

If we ever feel sorry for Ol' Peter, it's here. We certainly understand what his problem is, don't we? On the one side words like God, Messiah, power, victory and on the other side weakness, frailty, submission, cross, and death. They seem to be to be two separate lists of words that should have nothing to do with each other, yet Jesus insists they do. Scripture insists that God is never so powerful as when he willingly submits to death in human flesh on the cross.

But, like Peter, we are not interested in a weak God, in a dead God. We want a mountain reducing, earth shaking, wipe out my enemies with one word God. But, everywhere in the Scriptures, old and new, it is the suffering and death of the Messiah which overcomes the powers, rescues all of creation, and brings us new life. Jesus must go up to Jerusalem and die.

Of course, what really makes us uncomfortable is the implication; if Jesus must die and we are his disciples then so must we. If the cross is at the centre of his Messiahship it can be no less at the centre of my discipleship. Which means to follow Jesus must cost me everything even as it cost him everything. No wonder we step in his way and say, "This will never happen to you Lord." We are trying to save ourselves!

But, we can't save ourselves. If we try to save our lives from the way of the cross we will lose them. It is only by submitting ourselves to the way of the cross that we will actually be saved. We must say to Jesus, "Yes Lord, you must go and I will go with you." We must submit our lives to his way every day, moment by moment.

Prayer

God, who did not spare his own son, but gave him up to death help us to get behind you so we might follow in your steps. Let the cross stand at the centre of our faith and our lives so that our faith and our lives are cruciform rather than ashamed by your great way of salvation. Amen.