



HEADING TOWARD JERUSALEM

Sept. 16, 2018 Mark 8: 27-38 & Is. 50: 5-9a

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

Sr. Gail at Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbey writes: “Jesus knew the hearts of the people around him. Their thoughts were good, even holy, but they were all wrong. Their thoughts about God were too limited, too human. When Jesus began to teach them the truth—that he must suffer and die and be raised on the third day—we know what happened. Peter couldn’t let go of *his* idea of the Messiah. According to Mark, Peter began to “rebuke” Jesus, and Jesus had to reprimand him in no uncertain terms: “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things” (Mark 8:33).” As we listen to this text do a heart check and see what your idea of the Messiah is like. Does this help us understand Peter’s reaction?

Fitzpatrick, Mother Gail, OCSO. [Seasons of Grace: Wisdom from the Cloister](#). Chicago. ACTA Pub. 2000. Pg. 25.

Mark 8: 27-35-38

27 Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around **Caesarea Philippi**. On the way he asked his disciples this **question**, “Who do

people say I am?” 28 They replied, “Some say **John the Baptist**; others say **Elijah**; and still others, one of the **prophets**.” 29 And you, he when on to ask, “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the **Messiah**.” 30 Then he **strictly ordered** them not to tell anyone about him. 31 He then began to teach them that the **Son of Man** must **suffer** much, be **rejected** by the **elders, chief priests** and the **scribes**, be put to death, and rise **three days** later. 32 He said this quite **openly**. Peter then took him aside and began to **remonstrate** with him. 33 At this he turned around and, eyeing the disciples, **reprimanded** Peter in turn: “Get out of my sight you **satan!**”. You are not judging by **God’s standards**, but by **man’s!**” 34 He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them: “If anyone could **come after** me, they must **deny** themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save their life will **lose** it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the **gospel** will save it.”

(Revised Common Lectionary adds)

36 What good is it for someone to **gain** the whole **world**, yet **forfeit** their **soul**? 37 Or what can anyone give in **exchange** for their **soul**? 38 If anyone is **ashamed** of me and my words in this **adulterous** and **sinful** generation, the **Son of Man** will be **ashamed** of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Jesus is checking the disciples understanding of whom people say that he is. Has my answer to this question grown in the past few years of living the gospel message?

PRAYER: Lord, you often speak words that challenge my understanding of what makes sense just as Peter does in this story. Of course Peter didn’t want you to die. What would happen to everyone’s hopes for you if that happened? And what would that mean for me as well? I am beginning to see all the ways that I too judge by my own standards instead of God’s. Help me, as I take this awareness into my daily life and try to take up my cross and follow you. Amen.