

June 16

A Weakened Jesus Finds Strength to Warn Jerusalem Again

The high places, ... the sin of Israel, will be destroyed. The thorn and the thistle will come up on their altars. They will tell the mountains, "Cover us!" and the hills, "Fall on us!" ... I will chastise them; and the nations will be gathered against them – Hosea 10:8-10

[Luke 23:26-32, in Jerusalem, Thursday]
When they had mocked him, they took the scarlet-purple off of him, and put his own garments on him. When they led him, bearing his own cross, away, they grabbed one passing by, Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, coming from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it after Jesus. A great multitude of the people followed him, including women who also mourned and lamented him. But Jesus, turning to them,

Don't weep for me... weep for yourselves

said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to tell the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and tell the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things in the green tree, what will be done in the dry?"

There were also others, two criminals, led with him to be put to death. [Matthew 27:31-32, Mark 15:20-21, John 19:16-17]

1. Simon followed Jesus, bearing the cross; do you do this? How? How will you do it today?
2. What "days" does Jesus mean? How would the tree be dry? What does this mean for you?
3. Jesus, you knew that the temple would be destroyed and Jerusalem with it; but your body is...