

7th and 9th Stations of the Cross (Traditional) – Jesus Falls Down the Second Time and Third Times

The three times Jesus falls is not biblically based. Clearly however, again it points to his humanity, not his divinity.

How many times have you stumbled and fallen as a consequence of the suffering you carry and yet you keep picking up that cross of duality again and again and again? Think of a simple example. You do things you do not want to do – it is an immense burden of guilt and shame that keeps you doing, doing, doing for others. You get nothing in return except ingratitude and the sense of being used. You vow to not keep doing



things out of guilt and acting the martyr. And yet the next time someone tries to use you to do something they can do themselves, you pick up the cross of the martyr again and again and again.

The number 3 comes up again and clearly for good reason. In this story no-one cares, no-one respects the suffering... they just carry on persecuting him till death. Just as people do not recognize you as a saint, which indeed you are not — you are just a hapless victim. The end consequence of living your life from a place of unaware fear and shame, disconnected from the kinds, including literal death.

Christ Falls. Giandomenico Tiepolo (1772). Museo del Prado

- What does love and respect demand of you towards yourself and others?
- How have you implicitly, and in an unaware way colluded internally with the victim/perpetrator paradigm of life as an adult, internally and externally, and recreated the early victimization of your childhood?
- How does fear keep you in a mindless, repetitive life carrying the huge burden of shame, guilt, helplessness, hopelessness and paralysis?
- Using this particular graphic and gruesome example, what choices did Jesus have, if any?
- Do you find yourself in situations where you feel you do not have a choice?

Victims do not see choices and options.

“With three a new element appears in the concept of numbers. I – You: the I is still in a state of juxtaposition toward the You, but what lies beyond them, the It, is the Third, the Many, the Universe.”

~Karl Menninger

“The One engenders the Two, the Two engenders the Three and the Three engenders all things.

~Tao Te Ch'ing