

8th Station of the Cross (Traditional), 9th Station (Modern) Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem, who weep for him



“There followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck!’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?” ~ Luke 23:27-31

There are always at least two ways of hearing something. If what is said comes from love and the soul, the very same words mean something completely different than when they come from the ego. In fact, they mean the exact opposite.

So assuming that Jesus is still on the path to his own salvation in this story, and is still in his ego consciousness, then this passage sounds bitter, resentful, rageful, and even desiring revenge on humanity that he perceives as “doing this to him.” Can you allow yourself to

hear it this way? The response to the compassion of the women who love him is prideful and defiant. The words, could also be prophetic and deeply wise and insightful into the condition of humanity. You can see which side of this you need to work on yourself.

Raphael (1514 -1516)

Museo Nacional del Prado

- We have been taught to only see Jesus as if he lived his whole life in an enlightened way, despite the teachings being very clear – he was *fully human* and fully divine.
- Think about our current situation in the world today. You could see the misguided and unaware actions of our leaders with bitterness and anger, revenge and superiority, or you could feel the immense sorrow and pain of what motivates these choices and also clearly see the consequences of these choices to humankind. What might you say then? How would Jesus have said the same thing from a heart broken open with compassion? He might say the same thing but it would sound so different.
- Consider what the weeping of others (compassion) for your plight of suffering evokes in you and what your response has been in the past. Have you heard the compassion? Felt it with deep gratitude? Been able to give the same to yourself?
- Or when you have had someone be willing to suffer with you, have you felt guilty, shamed, vulnerable, exposed, resistant, rejecting? Does your ego feel humiliated at being seen? Do you still judge your suffering and your defenses?
- How would you have experienced Jesus if you were one of the women weeping for him, and with him in his suffering, and he said something to you, as a woman, that he did to these women? Think of the words, said from ego defense, or from soul and see what your inner response would be either way.

“Man’s task is to become conscious of the contents that press upward from the unconscious.”

~Carl Jung