

Wednesday of Holy Week (Gill Gough)

Today is Wednesday in Holy week, and we are nearing the end of our Lenten journey; but still to come are the worst and the best. I have wondered what the followers of Jesus were thinking at that time over 2000 years ago. on that first Wednesday of the first Holy week. Perhaps someone thought as follows.

There is a strange feeling in my heart. Things are changing, I can't quite put my finger on it but there is something brewing. You know what I mean. It's that feeling we get just before a storm, yet the weather is perfect.

The week started so well, with this man Jesus coming to the city. I joined the crowds greeting him and shouted with them, "Hallelujah to the son of David, Praise the Lord, Behold our King comes!" Yet with all this acclamation, he made his entrance riding a donkey; the most humblest of all animals; not on a camel like a king or in a chariot or even being carried by servants. No a simple donkey carried this king, this Son of God.

Palms and cloaks were strewn down before him and people were praising his name and were very excited to behold their Saviour. We had been following him everywhere, we just couldn't get enough of him, couldn't wait to hear him speak. He seemed pleased to see us, glad that we were there.

It was obvious to us followers that he didn't think much of the Scribes and Pharisees. All they did was try to trick him and criticise what he said and did. Better be careful Jesus, they don't all like you, they fear you for you tell the truth and there are those who do not believe you, those who would wish you harm. They might even ban you from the city but we will follow wherever you go.

As the week progressed, we were busy planning and preparing for our Passover Meal. It's a very important and great celebration for our Jewish nation. It's a time of recollection and remembrance of all that God has done for us. This man Jesus claims to be the Son of God – is that blasphemy or the truth? He is so convincing, preaching his kingdom of Love and peace.

Well I believe him along with many others. Some say he is our promised Messiah or if that were so! All our troubles would be over. It is quite conceivable with his healing, his miracles, his talk of forgiveness and explaining the kingdom of God.

But now today, there is definitely something in the air. I can't explain exactly what I mean but I sense the atmosphere is changing. The Pharisees seem more

evident, more conspicuous , more confident and cunning what are they planning?

Take care my Lord, Be alert for your enemy prowls round like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour!

You must continue your good works, you must not end up in prison or even worse. No, I cannot bear the thought of anything worse and yet you seem unaware, carrying on as normal, perhaps a little subdued but you say "God's will be done." What does that mean? Surely if you are our Messiah, come to save us, nothing dreadful can happen to you.

And yet I fear for your safety Jesus, the undertone is ominous, yet we should still be rejoicing our saviour is here. Why do I feel this sadness this ambience of gloom.

Perhaps you ought to leave Jerusalem for a while; you were warned not to come and yet you still insisted on being here to complete your work you said. I wish you sometimes wouldn't speak in riddles, "in a little while you will not see me anymore, and then a little while later you will see me. I don't really understand Jesus. Are you leaving Jerusalem then?

Let us celebrate the Passover first and then perhaps you can be persuaded to slip away, for your own safety, for our safety. Perhaps the timing is not right or perhaps it is, I don't know. You have talked about going away, going to your father. How can we continue without your presence? And then I remember you said something about the Holy Spirit. I do not yet fully understand whatever God has planned for you and for us and the rest of the world, we will just have to wait and wonder, but I wish I could be more hopeful. This feeling of despondency just won't go away. Lord we love you and will follow you faithfully, just take heed. May God protect you.

Amen.