

About Seventy-four Days.

“And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,

And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?

And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise”, Luke 10:30–37.

For Joseph and Mary, the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem to pay their taxes, would have been about eighty miles.

If they travelled an average of fifteen miles per day, their journey would have taken them about six days.

In the Church year, we are now preparing to celebrate Passover.

For the Jews, it was a joyous time, as they prepared to break the shackles of bondage for freedom.

For those of you reading this, it will be about seventy-four days since we celebrated Christmas, or, about one day shorter than the journey time of Joseph and Mary.

Yet there are many parallels in the illustration of Joseph and Mary that are applicable to the Church of to day.

The question now arises, “How far have you travelled since Christmas?”

Mary did not have to make that journey. The Holy Spirit led her. She made the journey, and Joseph was there at all times to protect her.

We do not have to make any journeys for the Lord. The Holy Spirit calls us to make a journey. If we do, the Lord is there to protect us at all times.

If Mary did not make the journey with her husband, the question arises, “How much love did she have for Joseph?”

If we do not make the journey with Jesus, the question arises, “How much love do we have for Jesus?”

The Israelites who rebelled in the desert, collapsed and died in the desert. For those who rebel against the journey to day, they will collapse and die on the Highway to Hell.

If you come across a collapsed and injured person, will you just leave them to die on the highway? Or will you be a priest or Samaritan to them?

Jesus walks with the Samaritans of this world.

Personal understanding – ‘If I stop, I might get attacked and hurt!’ – walks with many of the ‘christians’ of this world.

How far, in the seventy-four days since we celebrated the Lord’s Birth have YOU walked with Him?