

Week 3 - Falling

*Please refer to documents from Week 1 to enhance your meditations on these three Stations of the Cross. See “**Lectio Divina and the Stations of the Cross**” and “**Lectio Divina**” handout sheet or on the webpage go to: <http://www.churchholyfamily.org/stations.pdf>*
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It is suggested that you begin your daily journey with invoking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. (See prayer Week 1)

### **Seventh Station: Jesus Falls a Second Time (no reference)**

Try to spend today’s meditation as one of the people present at that scene. On the next day, select another person to ‘live out’ for the day. It could be:

**Jesus** – How could this happen again? Someone is even helping to carry the cross yet exhaustion prevails and there is another stumble and crashing fall to the ground.

Did Jesus just want to stay there on the ground? How hard was it to get up this second time? Why was it so important to get up and move on toward Golgotha? Could Redemption only be claimed on the Cross rather than on the ground?

**Simon of Cyrene** – Did Simon help to pick Jesus up or did he just watch the ordeal?

\*\*\* Perhaps your meditation will be more relevant to **your current life situation.** \*\*\* How would you cope with a reoccurrence of a serious illness? Would you give up or choose to endure more painful treatments? Why would you want to go on? Who would be there to help you get through it a second time?

## **Eighth Station: Jesus Comforts the Women of Jerusalem** **(Luke 23:27-31)**

*A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' At that time people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?"*

**Jesus** – How different in tone is Jesus' message to the women of Jerusalem. There are no words of hope only desolation. Is Jesus losing confidence that even this great act of dying love on His part is not enough to save all of mankind from its greed and cynicism? Why do individuals resist salvation?

**The women** – How did Jesus' words affect these women? How could such words bring comfort? Did they begin to wonder about their own children and what would become of them? Did Jesus speak to them gently or in a stern tone? What difference would that make in their understanding of the warning?

\*\*\* Perhaps your meditation will be more relevant to **your current life situation.** \*\*\* How would you react if you came face to face with someone who was about to lose their job, be evicted or die? How would the words of such a person impact you? What would you say to onlookers if you were the one losing your job, your home or your health?

## **Ninth Station: Jesus Falls a Third Time (no reference)**

**Jesus** – Did Jesus trip this time because His strength was depleted from this last encounter?

Why did He fall three times? Was it to lovingly show Peter that everyone is capable of repetitive failures? Was it reparation for Peter's three-time denial? *"I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me."* Luke 22:34

\*\*\* Perhaps your meditation will be more relevant to **your current life situation.** \*\*\* How do you cope with you own repetitive failings? Do you give up and say you can never do better?