

"And Jesus taught a parable, that men ought always to pray..."  
(Luke 18:1)

Jerusalem and the ministry of Jesus! Remember what he said? "I must walk today, and tomorrow and the next day: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem (Luke 13:33).

Jesus travelled to Jerusalem, and he came here to die for you and for me. This is the place.

Today we did something very special. We toured the Temple Mount. That means we took time to pray and we did that with so many others at the West Wall...the wailing wall. Then we walked underground by means of a tunnel constructed after 1967. Moslem homes had been built against much of the West Wall. The so called "wailing wall" is a very small portion of the West Wall, but it is all that has been left to the Jews and they share it with Christian pilgrims. We walked through a tunnel under those homes, along the foundation of the second Temple. Always in view were the 1 St, 2nd and 3 Rd tiers of the blocks of stone in the West Wall. And there are Jewish prayer stations all along this foundation of the wall, so we walked in silence.

Perhaps the most poignant moment of the day was sitting on the ancient Temple steps. This is where Jesus taught during that last week following Palm Sunday and his celebrated entry to the Holy City, during Passover Season.

Of all the things historians and archeologists argue about, this is not one of them. Seated on these steps, Jesus taught those who gathered to hear him. This is the place, that marvellous place, and beautiful steps, where Jesus spoke in parables.

"Two men went up to the Temple to pray; the one was a Pharisee, the other was a publican...(sinner). The Pharisee prayed, God I thank you, that you did not make me as others are...or like this publican. And the publican smote his breast saying, God be merciful to me a sinner."

This is the place where Jesus said, "This second man went to his house justified, rather than the other." A special place, on a very special day. As I sit here and look off to my left, about 600 yards, I can see what remains of the Mount of Olives.

Morley Mitchell  
Sent in the love of Jesus.