

March 22, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

NO PROPHET IS ACCEPTED IN HIS NATIVE PLACE

By Sr. Katherine "Kit" Gray, CSJ

Verses from the Gospels

We are a few days away from Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, the commemoration of Jesus' suffering and death and celebration of his resurrection. The Scripture readings during Lent have been filled with the stories of Jesus in ministry—proclaiming Good News, dispelling evil spirits, restoring men and women to wholeness—body, mind, and spirit. Jesus' words and actions stimulated faith in some people and stirred up suspicion, envy, and hostility in others. Consider these examples:

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

JOHN 2:23-25

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parable, they knew that he was speaking about them. And although they were attempting to arrest him,

they feared the crowds, for they regarded him as a prophet.

MATTHEW 21:45-46

Jesus said to the people in the synagogue at Nazareth, “No prophet is accepted in his own native place.” When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But he passed through the midst of them and went away.

LUKE 4:24, 28-30

[At the end of the story of the cure of the man at Bethesda,] The man went and told the Jews that Jesus was the one who had made him well. Therefore, the Jews began to persecute Jesus because he did this on the Sabbath.

JOHN 5:15-16

Jesus said to the Jews, “Amen, I say to you, whoever keeps my word will never see death.” So, the Jews said to him, “Now we are sure you are possessed. ... Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? Or the prophets, who died? Who do you make yourself out to be?”

JOHN 8:51-53

Jesus moved about within Galilee; he did not wish to travel in Judea, because the Jews were trying to kill him.

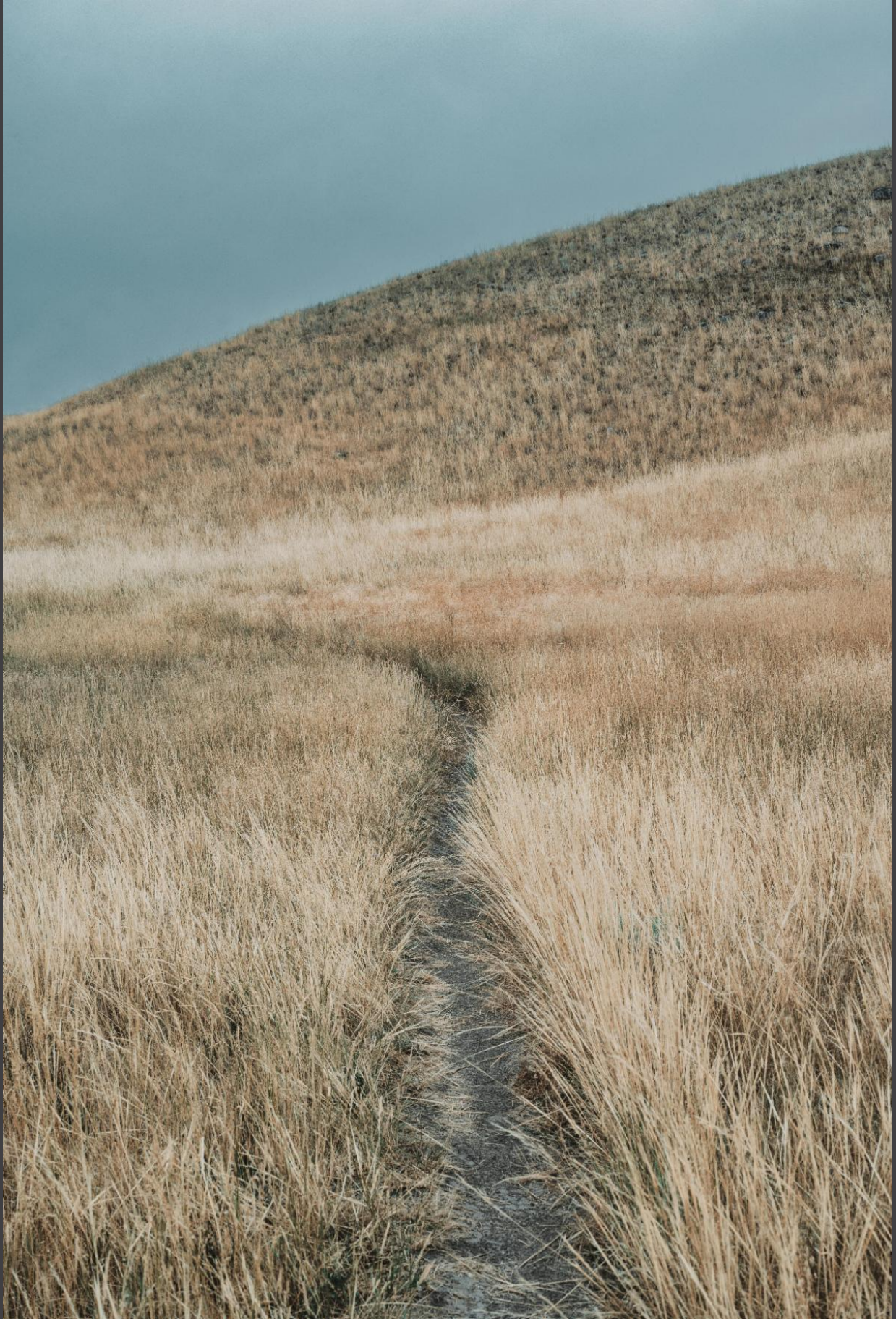
JOHN 7:1

Then they tried again to arrest him.

JOHN 10:39

Reflection

Think of various stories in the Gospels; remember and re-imagine the responses of people to Jesus. What is *your* response to Jesus, to his words and actions?



Path in a grassy field covering a hill
Photo by Alfo Medeiros

For Prayer

Pray this psalm thinking of how Jesus might have prayed it as he realized that things were “closing in on him,” that his end was near.

*Be gracious to me, Lord, for I am in distress;
affliction is wearing down my eyes,
my throat and my insides.*

*My life is worn out by sorrow,
and my years by sighing.
My strength fails in my affliction;
my bones are wearing down.*

*To all my foes I am a thing of scorn,
and especially to my neighbors
a horror to my friends.
When they see me in public,
they quickly shy away.*

*I hear the whispers of the crowd;
terrors are all around me.
They conspire together against me;
they plot to take my life.*

*But I trust in you, Lord;
I say, “You are my God.”*

*My destiny is in your hands;
rescue me from my enemies,
from the hands of my pursuers.*

*Let your face shine on your servant;
save me in your mercy.*

*Do not let me be put to shame,
for I have called to you, LORD.*

PSALM 31

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