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Matthew

It's been amazing to travel with Jesus as one of His disciples. Watching Jesus teach people and perform miracles has opened my eyes to the wonders of God's power. But if I'm being honest, I'm a little nervous about traveling to Jerusalem.

Don't get me wrong! I trust Jesus with my life, and I am so grateful for the compassion He has shown me. Before I met Him, I was a tax collector working for the Roman Empire. A lot of people thought I was a traitor for helping an empire that oppresses God's people. Then one day, Jesus came to me and called me to be one of His disciples. I was so excited that I quit my job and left everything behind to follow Him. Ever since then, I've lived my life alongside the other disciples, and I go wherever they go.

But Jerusalem? Surely Jesus has heard the rumors: the Pharisees and priests there are furious with Him for performing miracles and declaring Himself the Son of God. I've even heard talk that the Pharisees are willing to work with the Romans to put an end to Jesus' ministry. I hope He realizes the danger He's in.

Why can't we continue teaching throughout the rest of Israel? Jesus has already healed so many people and led many more to follow Him. Why not keep teaching and saving those who are lost? Why must we go to the place where we are despised the most? Jesus has told us before that He will be delivered into the hands of the high priest and sentenced to die. Why doesn't He avoid that fate? Is He *trying* to get Himself killed?

All I know is that the Romans are brutal when it comes to putting people on trial. If Jesus gets into trouble, it will be very hard to set Him free. Maybe He'll change His mind and go somewhere else. Then again, I've never once seen Jesus go back on what He says He'll do.

I spoke to Mark and Luke about it, and they agree that going to Jerusalem seems like a risky idea. But not Peter. He said he would follow Jesus anywhere—even to His death. I pray it doesn't come to that.



Who makes you feel brave?

If you were Matthew, would you be worried about going to Jerusalem? Why or why not?

What risky thing have you ever felt like God was asking you to do?

