

Thirty Pieces of Silver | A Meditation



Maundy Thursday – 2013

St Andrews, Canterbury

Sing: 'Thou didst leave thy throne'

[We light the 30 candles]

Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown
When thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room
For thy holy nativity.

*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
There is room in my heart for thee.*

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming thy royal degree;
But of lowly birth cam'st thou, Lord, on earth
And in great humility.

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living word
That should set thy people free;
But with mocking scorn, and with crown of thorn,
They bore thee to Calvary.

When Heaven's arches ring, and her choirs shall sing,
At thy coming to victory,
Let thy voice call me home, saying: Yet there is room,
There is room at my side for thee!

*And my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,
When thou comest and callest for me.*

READER 1: Luke 6 : 12 - 16 the disciples are chosen

Voice 1:

What made you do it, Judas?
What prompted you to follow Jesus?
The others were from the North, you a man of the South.
A different accent, a different outlook.

So what made you say yes?
Was it his looks, his manner, his vision of a new Kingdom?
Did you see a potential Warrior King in Jesus of Nazareth?
Tired of living under occupation, did you want to be in on the action?
Or did he touch a spark of love within you, Judas?
Then when did that spark flicker and die?

*** a short silence ***

[Five candles are snuffed out!]

Voice 1:

Why did you do it, Jesus?
Why did you choose Judas to be one of the twelve?
What did you see in him?
His passion, his good business sense?
Did you know he could betray you, but still risk calling him?
Why, Jesus?

Voice 2:

Was it so that we can all know that we are called to be your disciples,
That in each of us you see the potential for good and evil,
And yet you still want us; indeed, you long for us, for your love is without
reservation?

*** a longer silence ***

**You Laid Aside Your Majesty
Gave Up Everything For Me
Suffer'd At The Hands
Of Those You Had Created
You Took All My Guilt And Shame
When You Died And Rose Again
Now Today You Reign
In Heav'n And Earth Exalted**

Chorus:

**I Really Want To Worship You, My Lord
You Have Won My Heart And I Am Yours
For Ever And Ever
I Will Love You
You Are The Only One Who Died For Me
Gave Your Life To Set Me Free
So I Lift My Voice To You In Adoration**

READER 2: Matthew 26 : 6 – 13 Jesus is anointed

Voice 1:

What made you do it, Judas?
Why did you scorn that gift so lovingly and lavishly given?
Did your hardening heart not soften a little with the beauty of that act?

Voice 3:

Was it the final straw, Judas, or one of many disillusionment's?
Was it so alien to you, that you thought only of the waste and the cost?
Or did it touch some secret place in your heart, which you smothered with
words of indignation?

***** a short silence *****

[Five candles are snuffed out!]

READER 3: Matthew 26 : 14 – 16 Judas agrees to betray Jesus

[Five candles are snuffed out!]

*** a longer silence ***

READER 4: John 13 : 1 – 11 Jesus washes the disciples' feet

Voice 1:

Why did you let him do it, Judas?
How did you feel as he poured the water over your feet, washing away the
sin of betrayal, caressing them dry with the cloth of forgiveness?

Did you look down into his face and see the pain
and disappointment in his eyes?
Or did you keep a grip on your emotions
and fix your eyes on the job ahead?

Voice 3:

Why not betray him? You might force his hand and make him act.
Slip out, Judas, into the darkness of the night
and the darkness of your soul.

*** a short silence ***

[Five candles are snuffed out!]

*An opportunity to reflect – it may be that you would want
to move forward and have your hands washed by the Pastor or Elders.*

**It's Your Blood That Cleanses Me
It's Your Blood That Gives Me Life
It's Your Blood That Took My Place
In Redeeming Sacrifice
Washes Me Whiter Than The Snow
Than The Snow
My Jesus, God's Precious Sacrifice**

Prayer Reflection

(by Christine Odell – Companion to the Lectionary – Vol 4, Epworth)

Voice 1: Lord, your disciples are coming to you. Our feet are dirty from the paths we have trodden. Our hearts are hungry for you.

Together: **Wash us Lord, feed us with your love: unite us with Christ give us hope for the world.**

Voice 2: Our feet are dirty from the paths of everyday life,
from making the wrong compromises, when faced with
important decisions,
from not giving time or energy to those whom we need and love,
from running fast to get away from you or dawdling in the hope
of being left behind!

Our hearts are hungry for you,
For the assurance of knowing we are loved,
for the belief that there is a purpose in life.

Together: **We need: the peace, the strength, the joy that come from you.**

Voice 1: Our feet are dirty from the paths of suffering;
The experience and knowledge of pain clings to us and darkens
our lives. Illness, starvation, natural disaster, bereavement,
handicaps, war the stones on life's path cause us to bleed.

Our hearts are hungry for you,
For the fellowship we share together,
for the symbols of suffering you share with us.

Together: **We need: the courage, the compassion, the faith that come from you.**

Voice 2: Our feet are dirty from the ways of our world,
From standing idly by: while injustice and oppression besmirch
so many lands;

While the wealthy exploit the poor who lie down hungry in the dust to die. Our hearts are hungry for you, for the sacrifice of your love that leads us into your kingdom.

Together: We need: the wisdom, the justice, the love that come from you.

READER 5: John 13 : 21 – 30 Jesus predicts his betrayal

Voice 1:

Why did you do it, Jesus?

Why give Judas the dipped bread, the choice mouthful kept for the special guest? Why uncover his deed in this act of honour?

You could reason with him, plead with him, expose his treachery, throw him out, overcome him with your love. Why did you not do something, Jesus?

Voice 2:

Was it because you will not force or plead?

Like Judas, we are free to go our own way.

You hold us only by the power of your love for us.

A love, which blesses us, even in the hour of our deepest wrong.

*** a longer silence***

READER 6: Mark 14: 22 - 26 Jesus shares bread and wine

An opportunity to take a piece of bread from the display and reflect

***Here is bread, here is wine
Christ is with us, he is with us
Break the bread, drink the wine
Christ is with us here***

***Here is grace, here is peace
Christ is with us, he is with us
Know his grace, find his peace***

Feast on Jesus here

***In this bread there is healing
In this cup there's life forever
In this moment, by the Spirit
Christ is with us here***

***Here we are, joined in one
Christ is with us, he is with us
We'll proclaim, till he comes
Jesus crucified***

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Voice 1:

Let your God love you.
Be silent.
Be still.

Empty before your God.

Say nothing.
Ask nothing.
Be silent.

Let your God
Look upon you.
That is all.
God knows.

God understands.

God loves you with an enormous love.
God only wants to look upon you with love.

Quiet. Still be.
Let your God love you.

READER 7: Mark 14 : 32 – 46 Gethsemane

Voice 1:

Why did you do it, Judas?
Why betray him with a kiss, so intimate and gentle?
Why not point an accusing finger so that all was out in the open?
Did you think to sting him into action?

Voice 2:

But he wouldn't play your game, Judas,
and too late you realised what you have done.
You had condemned an innocent man.

***** a short silence *****

[Five candles are snuffed out!]

"10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)"

[Chorus]

**Bless the Lord, O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name**

**The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes**

[Chorus]

**Bless the Lord, O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name**

**You're rich in love, and You're slow to anger
Your name is great, and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find**

[Chorus]

**Bless the Lord, O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name**

**And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore**

[Chorus x2]

**Bless the Lord, O my soul
O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before
O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name**

**Jesus, I'll worship Your holy name
Lord, I'll worship Your holy name**

Voice 1:

**There would have been many distinctive sounds
on that first Good Friday:-
The crowing cock,
The shouts of the crowd,
The sound of women weeping,
The clatter of coins on the floor of the Temple precinct,
The rattle of the dice –
But none more sinister, and none more final,
Than the dull thud of the mallet on the cruel nails**

Being driven through the hands and feet of Jesus
And the others who were being put to death in this barbaric way.

The hands of Jesus that had blessed and healed and broken bread;
The feet of Jesus that had walked the long
and dusty roads of Galilee and Judea;
these feet now fastened against the rough wood of a cross.

This it was with wood and nails that the Carpenter from Nazareth
Expressed his overwhelming love for us all.
The crude wooden cross would become a unique emblem
telling of a love that went to the limits of suffering.
No wood was ever put to more shameful use.
No wood was ever more glorious transformed than the cross
which held the body of Jesus.

*** a short silence ***
[Five candles are snuffed out!]

READER 8: Matthew 27 : 1 – 5 Judas hangs himself

Voice 2:

Why did you do it, Judas? Why take your own life?
Did you not know that you had been forgiven?
He forgave Peter three denials.
He had shown he was ready to forgive you, even before you acted.

Voice 3:

Was it that you could not forgive yourself, Judas?
So you turned your back on the redeeming light of God's love.

Sing: 'Man of sorrows'

Man of sorrows! what a name
For the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim;
Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
In my place condemned he stood,
Sealed my pardon with his blood;
Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

Guilty, vile and helpless we,
Spotless Lamb of God was he;
Full atonement--can it be?
Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

Lifted up was he to die;
It is finished was his cry;
Now in Heaven, exalted high;
Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

When he comes, our glorious King,
All his ransomed home to bring,
Then anew this song we'll sing:
Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

*** a short silence ***

the lights within the cafe to be turned off

Voice 2:

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish but have eternal life.’ (John 3: 16)

SILENCE WHILE THE ***THIRTY CANDLES ARE RELIT.***

We say together:

May the hand of God be stretched out to meet you,
The courage of Christ carry you beyond the unknown way
And the Spirit gather you up in the solidarity of love.

Time to sit and be quiet and reflect.