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If These Were Silent, The Very Stones Would Cry Out

36 And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. 37 As he was drawing near —already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, 38 saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” 39 And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” 40 He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”

Luke 19:36-40 ESV

Today's Question

If passion is a kind of waiting -
what are you waiting for with
passion in relation with Christ?

Reflection

Scripture readings: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Gospel: Luke 19:28-40

The Path of Waiting

—Henri Nouwen,
<https://henrinouwen.org>

Passion is a kind of waiting - waiting for what other people are going to do. Jesus went to Jerusalem to announce the good news to the people of that city. And Jesus knew that he was going to put a choice before them: Will you be my disciple, or will you be my executioner? There is no middle ground here. Jesus went to Jerusalem to put people in a situation where they had to say "Yes" or "No". That is the great drama of Jesus' passion: he had to wait for their response. What would they do? Betray him or follow him?

In a way, his agony is not simply the agony of approaching death. It is also the agony of being out of control and of having to wait.

PRAYER

of the week

**Lord Jesus,
grant that I
may
understand
Your heart,
Amen**



It is the agony of a God who depends on us to decide how to live out the divine presence among us. It is the agony of the God who, in a very mysterious way, allows us to decide how God will be God. Here we glimpse the mystery of God's incarnation. God became human not only to act among us but also to be the recipient of our responses.

And that is the mystery of Jesus' love. Jesus in his passion is the one who waits for our response. Precisely in that waiting the intensity of his love and God's is revealed to us.



“On the one hand we are called to play the good Samaritan on life’s roadside; but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life’s highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring. “A Time to Break Silence,” at Riverside Church”

~ MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

**LET YOUR
LOVE SHINE**



A Prayer For Holy Week

<https://renovare.org/articles/a-prayer-for-holy-week>

Dear Lord,

Your disciple Peter wanted to know who would betray you. You pointed to Judas but a little later also to him. Judas betrayed, Peter denied you. Judas hanged himself, Peter became the apostle whom you made the first among equals. Lord, give me faith, faith in your endless mercy, your boundless forgiveness, your unfathomable goodness. Let me not be tempted to think that my sins are too great to be forgiven, too abominable to be touched by your mercy. Let me never run away from you but return to you again and again, asking you to be my Lord, my Shepherd, my Stronghold, and my Refuge. Take me under your wing, O Lord, and let me know that you do not reject me as long as I keep asking you to forgive me. Perhaps my doubt in your forgiveness is a greater sin than the sins I consider too great to be forgiven. Perhaps I make myself too important, too great when I think that I cannot be embraced by you anymore. Lord, look at me, accept my prayer as you accepted Peter's prayer, and let me not run away from you in the night as Judas did. ?

Bless me, Lord, in this Holy Week, and give me the grace to know your loving presence more intimately. Amen.

FORGIVEN

By Ken Costa
Excerpt from Seven Day
Plan, Strange Kingdom,
Meditations on the Cross
to Transform Your Day-
to-Day Life, Youversion
Bible App.

Jesus had been betrayed by one of his own disciples for thirty pieces of silver. He had been arrested, interrogated, and tried with falsified evidence by the Jewish ruling council of his day. Peter, who was his most vocal supporter, had denied him, and Pontius Pilate and Herod Antipas had questioned his motives and authenticity. He had been whipped profusely, mocked with profanity, and paraded around as a laughing stock: a fake king with a crown of thorns on his head. Not only that, but he had been forced to carry the very instrument of his own execution on his back. **If we imagine ourselves in Jesus' position, looking down at the crowd whose schemes and strategies had put us there, what would our first words be? Would they be words of mercy and grace?**

The words that fell from Jesus' parched lips were: "Father, forgive them." Instead of asking God to give his killers their just deserts, Jesus asked him to bestow complete forgiveness on them.

LET YOUR
LOVE SHINE



Jesus recognized that they were unknowing. At the cross there is the strangest and most beautiful encounter—a once-for-all meeting of human beings at their worst and God at his best. Father, forgive them—they are doing the best they know how.

Jesus interceded on behalf of the people who were torturing him, and at Golgotha he modelled the words he had shared again and again in his earthly ministry: “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matt. 5:44). And that’s what he is still doing more than two thousand years later. From the throne room of heaven, Jesus is not accusing us but is standing as our advocate and interceding on our behalf.

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34). His last words were a prayer. He could have prayed, “Father, forgive them their sins.” After all, he forgave others their sins. Had he meant, “Forgive them their sins,” though, he would have prayed it. Instead, the connotation seems different, more gentle. Jesus recognized that they were unknowing. At the cross there is the strangest and most beautiful encounter—a once-for-all meeting of human beings at their worst and God at his best. Father, forgive them—they are doing the best they know how. And by placing ourselves within the loving mercy of these words, we are released with the most extraordinary grace. Now is a great moment to ask God to bring to mind anything ugly you’d like to be rid of failures, short-comings, bad attitudes, messed-up relationships—and in repentance and gratitude, ask Jesus to exchange them for his righteousness.

Prayer:

Lord, how can I thank you for what you have done for me on the cross? Thank you that you have exchanged my sins for salvation and my meaninglessness for purpose. Give me a humble heart to receive your forgiveness and a grateful heart to know that I am now—today—clothed in your righteousness, amen.

LET YOUR
LOVE SHINE





**Intercession is always
about the land.**
(c.f. Ezekiel 22:30)
Suzette Hattingh

The Church (Body of Christ)

Father, we choose You and actively seek first Your kingdom and all Your righteousness, In our relationships with each other, let love be our priority. May we make all effort to be united as one Body in Your plans and purposes and the bond of peace. Your voice we will hear and not the voice of another. At all times, teach us by Your Spirit to walk in obedience to You, serving You with a clear conscience to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God. Your kingdom come, Your will be done. Amen

Nations

World

For the Russia-Ukraine conflict

Malaysia

For Malaysia's economic stability, food security - that the supply chain won't be disrupted, justice in financial decisions by BNM. For Malaysia's education system - for restructuring from roots upwards to prioritize truth and righteousness as its foundations. For the pandemic to end, and healing for the nations & the earth. Amen.

Righteousness & Freedom

For the love of God's truth, justice, mercy, righteousness and humility to be the foundations of our nation and its inhabitants. For the judiciary system to remain free and committed to establishing justice and truth for both the individual and the land. For the protection of freedom of personal choices and rights of the people; minority or at large - to be respected, upheld and honored.

Justice & Truth

Remembering Pr. Raymond Koh, Joshua & Ruth Hilmy, Amri CM as well as others who have suffered injustices; pray that enforced disappearances be criminalised. for all who continues to stand and act courageously for justice and truth. Father, may Your mercy and righteousness visit us as the early and latter rain and empower us as Your vessels of such. Amen.

BLC Community

Pray for healing for those are affected by Covid or who are unwell in our community.

Pray for provision of those affected by inflation.

Pray for growth in youths, children, marriages and families as they support each other in the journey of faith and knowing Christ.

LCM

Lord, we ask for Your wisdom and discernment, healing and health and provision for workers in the harvest field.

Pray for good health and provision for those under the care of Touching Hearts Ministry, Rumah Love & Care Kajang (for elderly) & the children's homes.

Prayer Support

SUPPORTING YOU IN PRAYER.

Send in your requests via
WhatsApp to Bishop Thomas,
Adeline or our Council.

**THE
FATHER'S
HOUSE
WELCOMES YOU**

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**Weekly
Manna**

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