

**A Meditation for Good Friday Morning 10th April 2020**

Today, we reflect on events that happened 2000 years ago and half a world away, yet they are supremely relevant to each one of us here today. Listen for the voice of God in Mark’s account of those 24 hours. Let us go in heart and mind to the site of crucifixion.

 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

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 Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

**Reading: Mark Ch 14 v 26 – 38**

Let us pray:-

Lord Jesus, may we watch with you this night, as we contemplate your cup of promise, your blood poured out, dissolving all the sin, suffering and sorrow of this broken world. You were acutely aware of the weakness of the flesh as you braced yourself to drink. So, strengthen us by your spirit as we drink more deeply than we have done before.

**Reading: Mark Ch 14 v 39 -52**

 From heaven you came, helpless babe,

 Entered our world, your glory veiled,

 Not to be served but to serve,

 And give your life that we might live.

 This is our God, the Servant King,

 He calls us now to follow Him,

 To bring our lives as a daily offering

 of worship to the Servant King.

**Reading:- Mark Ch 14 v 53 - 72**

**Prayer of Confession:-**

Lord Jesus Christ, as your disciples we confess that we have failed both you and those people who suffer innocently, as your disciples also failed you from the first. When we are tempted to betray you for the sake of selfish gain. **Christ have mercy**.

When we do not keep watch in prayer and seek to avoid sharing in your suffering. **Christ have mercy.**

 When we choose the way of the sword, the way of violence in place of the path of peace. **Christ have mercy.**

When we run away from difficult situations and desert those who need us. **Christ have mercy.**

When we do not admit to being your follower and are fearful of what others might say. **Christ have mercy.**

When we spurn your sacrificial love and will not offer you the sacrifice of our own life. **Christ have mercy.**

Cleanse us from our sins by your precious blood, and graciously restore us to your service for your praise and glory alone.

**Reading:- Mark Ch 15 v 1**

Pilate’s position

It has nothing to do with me. It’s a Jewish matter – nothing to do with Rome. What could Jesus have done in a week to turn the people against him? King of the Jews? Standing there bruised and blooded with clothes torn to shreds. Him, a king? None of it was my responsibility. I just washed my hands of him – literally. If he wants to die that’s his choice. It has nothing to do with me.

**Reading:- Mark Ch 15 v 15**

 My song is love unknown.

 My Saviour’s love to me.

 love to the loveless shown,

 that they might lovely be.

 O who am I, that for my sake,

 My Lord should take frail flesh and die.

**Reading:- Mark Ch 15 v 16 - 20**

**A crown of thorns**

The crown for the King of Kings: A crown of torment and taunting, of mockery and mutilation, laceration and laughter. An obscene joke. Mock love if you will, laugh at compassion if you must, spit in the face of justice if you have to, but never forget the face of God we see in Jesus, battered and bruised with blood and tears mingling down his face. Tears shed not for himself – but for us.

**Reading:- Mark Ch 15 v 21 - 32**

**The King of the Jews**

 I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship,

 Should set His love upon the sons of men,

 Or why, as shepherd, he should seek the wanderers,

 To bring them back, they know not how or when.

 But this I know that He was born of Mary,

 When Bethlehem’s manger was His only home,

 And that He lived at Nazareth and laboured,

 And so, the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

**Reading:- Mark Ch 15 v 33 – 39**

When I survey the wondrous cross

On which the prince of glory died,

My richest gain I count but loss,

And pour contempt on all my pride.

The cross, the hammer, the wood, the nails, the pain, the sin, the flesh, the bone, the nerves, the blood.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Christ is nailed to the cross, but so are faith, hope and love, and these cannot be killed. They are the things of God.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

**Please keep silence**