

Lenten Reflections

Holy Week

The Divine Intervention

April 14, 2017



Scripture

John 19: 23-37

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus,
they took his clothes and divided them into four shares,
a share for each soldier.

They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless,
woven in one piece from the top down.

So they said to one another,

"Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be, "

in order that the passage of Scripture might be fulfilled that says:

They divided my garments among them,

and for my vesture they cast lots.

This is what the soldiers did.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother
and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,
and Mary of Magdala.

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved
he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son."

Then he said to the disciple,

"Behold, your mother."

And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, aware that everything was now finished,

in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled,
Jesus said, "I thirst."

There was a vessel filled with common wine.

So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop
and put it up to his mouth.

When Jesus had taken the wine, he said,
"It is finished."

And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

Now since it was preparation day,

in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath,
for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one,
the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken
and that they be taken down.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first
and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus.

But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead,
they did not break his legs,

but one soldier thrust his lance into his side,
and immediately blood and water flowed out.

An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true;
he knows that he is speaking the truth,
so that you also may come to believe.

For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled:
Not a bone of it will be broken.

And again another passage says:

They will look upon him whom they have pierced.

After this, Joseph of Arimathea,
secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews,
asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus.

And Pilate permitted it.

So he came and took his body.

Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night,
also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes
weighing about one hundred pounds.

They took the body of Jesus
and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices,
according to the Jewish burial custom.

Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden,

and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by.

Our Scripture Reflection

The crucifixion scene is incredibly different in John when compared to that of the other Gospel accounts. In John, we see Jesus in a position of power and authority all the way to the end:

1. No one helps Jesus carry His cross. He does it by Himself
2. Jesus does not cry out in agony before His death
3. When He is ready to die, He simply says, "It is finished."
4. At the moment of death, Jesus "hands over His spirit."

Why the emphasis on the power of Jesus in John? Because only John will picture Jesus not just as the Lord or Son of God. In John, Jesus is explicitly called God (1: 18; 20:28).

Food for your Journey

In the forest fire, there is always one place where the fire cannot reach. It is the place where the fire has already burned itself out. Calvary is the place where the fire of God's judgment against sin burned itself out completely. It is there that we are safe. —Corrie ten Boom.

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand
I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home. Amen.