

CUTTING EDGE CAMELOT, No 10

Good Friday 2020

Welcome

On Good Friday we come to the moment of Jesus' death. The four gospels give us a variety of different perspectives on this. Seven different sayings are recorded which are known collectively as the seven last words of Jesus from the Cross. Each of them gives us a different insight into the death of Jesus.

In Matthew's Gospel (Matthew 27:46 and also Mark 15:34), Jesus cries out 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' This is quotation from the beginning of Psalm 22 and takes us with compelling immediacy into both the spiritual and the physical agony of the Cross. It reminds us of how much and how deeply Jesus suffered for our sake.

Luke emphasises Jesus' capacity to show forgiveness even in extreme circumstances when He says 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing' (Luke 23:34). We learn too of how God's mercy will come to anyone who turns to Jesus even at the moment of death as Jesus responds to the repentant criminal 'Today, you will be with me in Paradise' (Luke 23:43). And at the moment of death Jesus demonstrates the depth of His trust in God when He says 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' (Luke 23:46).

In John's Gospel we learn that even as death approaches Jesus is still conscious of the needs of other people and, in particular, his mother Mary. So He asks His closest disciple to look after Mary, saying to her 'Woman, here is your son' and to the disciple 'Here is your mother' (John 19:26-27). Jesus' physical need emerges in His words 'I am thirsty' (John 19:28) but this can also refer to His spiritual thirst for God and His desire that others might come to know God.

And finally He says 'It is finished' (John 19:30). Jesus' mission is complete. He has been obedient even to death and through His death and resurrection He has opened up a way by which we may all come to know God.

Alison has prepared for us two meditations for us to use on this Good Friday. The first focusses on each of these seven last words in turn. The second takes us through Matthew's narrative of Jesus' passion and death, reading this in conjunction with Psalm 22. This Psalm is referred to at a number of different points in the Passion Narrative culminating in Jesus' cry from the Cross taken from its opening.

As these meditations are both quite substantial I have included them as separate attachments.

Tristram

Points for Prayers

- To meditate on Jesus' death and what it means for us and for others
- Our own need both to forgive and be forgiven
- Thanksgiving for care, skill and courage of NHS workers
- Need for further largescale testing
- Prime Minister's health and for government
- Funerals needing to take place under new restrictions with only family mourners.

Growing as a worshipper, a servant and a family

We pray that 'we might live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us' (Ephesians 5:2)