

MATTHEW 26:26-56 Last Supper and Betrayal

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you;²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.²⁹ I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."³⁰ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.



³¹ Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' (Zechariah 13:7)"³² But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."³³ Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you."³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."³⁵ Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated.³⁸ Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."³⁹ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."⁴⁰ Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?"⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."⁴² Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."⁴³ Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.⁴⁴ So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.⁴⁶ Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people.⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him."⁴⁹ At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.⁵¹ Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it,

and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword."⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?⁵⁴ But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?"⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me."⁵⁶ But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.



LUKE 23:32-47 Crucifixion

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.³⁵ And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!"³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine,³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?"⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong."⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon,⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two.⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.⁴⁷ When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent."

PRAYER

Crucified Savior, when we sing of Calvary we hear a hammer pounding nails, we see a reddened hill underneath a darkened sky, and we shudder to remember your uncompromising words, "Take up your cross and follow me." Then with the psalmist we wonder: Where can we flee from your

presence? Where can we hide from your demanding spirit, from the strenuous work of love, from the severities of doing justice in a brutal world? Risen Lord, forgive our betrayal, our running away, our lack of courage, our failure of nerve. Infuse us with a passionate faith until we seek no other glory than what lies past Calvary's hill and our living and our dying and our rising by your will. **Amen.**

Thomas Troeger, *Borrowed Light*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1994

I DON'T AS THEY PUT IT BELIEVE IN GOD

I don't as they put it believe in god
but to him I cannot say no hard as I try
take a look at him in the garden
when his friends ran out on him
his face wet with fear
and with the spit of his enemies
him I have to believe

Him I can't bear to abandon
to the great disregard for life
to the monotonous passing of millions of years
to the moronic rhythm of work leisure and work
to the boredom we fail to dispel
in cars in beds in stores

That's how it is they say what do you want
uncertain and not uncritically
I subscribe to the other hypothesis
which is his story
that's not how it is he said for god is
and he staked his life on this claim

Thinking about it I find
one can't let him pay alone
for his hypothesis
so I believe him about
god

The way one believes another's laughter
his tears
or marriage or no for an answer
that's how you'll learn
to believe him about life
promised to all

Dorothee Soelle, *Revolutionary Patience*, Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY 1977



THE REVOLUTIONARY

Do you
wince when you hear his name
made vanity?

What if you were not so safe
sheltered, circled by love and convention?
What if the world shouted at you?
Could you take the string
of hoarse words – glutton,
wino, devil, crazy
man, agitator, bastard,
nigger-lover, rebel,
and hang the grimy ornament
around your neck
and answer
love?

See the sharp stones poised
against your head! even
your dear friend
couples your name with curses
("By God! I know not God!")
the obscene affirmation
of infidelity
echoes, insistent,
from a henhouse roof.

Then – Slap! Spit! the whip,
the thorn. The gravel
grinds your fallen knees
under a whole world's weight
until
the hammering home of all
your innocence
stakes you, stranded,
halfway between hilltop and heaven
(neither will have you).

And will you whisper
forgive?

Luci Shaw, *Polishing the Petoskey Stone*, Regent College Publishing, Vancouver, BC, 1990

