

Day 5: The Body, The Blood, The Death

Read the entirety of John 18-19

28 Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. 30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. John 19:28-30

Many people worldwide would have experienced a Maundy Thursday service yesterday. Maundy Thursday is the time at which we look at the last moments of Jesus' life before he was betrayed and taken to the cross. In this service we focus on the meal, the last supper of Jesus with his disciples. He could have taught so much more, could have healed many more, could have rattled establishment cages just a little more. But here his words and actions say "no more". No more will he eat, no more will he drink until he drinks with them in his Father's kingdom. No more would things be the same. The trust had been broken, the price for a life had been paid in the exchanging of a few shekles of silver and a Judas kiss.

Now, the betrayal; now the thrice denial; now the washing of hands and cries for Barabbas. Now Friday. Now the cross. Now Woman, here is your son," and to John "Here is your mother." Now "It is finished".

But it is not finished. Now is our time to hold our lives to the light of this story, now is our time to look inward; now is our time to recognize "It was my sins that held him there". Now we weep, for we have it all wrong. It is not finished. It must not be finished...because it must come alive in us.

Prayer: Father, it was my sins that held you there. My sins. My sins that would hold you there even if the rest of creation had been found blameless. Father forgive me. Amen.