

Holy Tuesday

20-21 There were some Greeks in town who had come up to worship at the Feast. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee: "Sir, we want to see Jesus. Can you help us?"

22-23 Philip went and told Andrew. Andrew and Philip together told Jesus. Jesus answered, "Time's up. The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."

24-25 "Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal."

26 "If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you'll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment's notice. The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves me."

27-28 "Right now I am storm-tossed. And what am I going to say? 'Father, get me out of this'? No, this is why I came in the first place. I'll say, 'Father, put your glory on display.'"

A voice came out of the sky: "I have glorified it, and I'll glorify it again."

29 The listening crowd said, "Thunder!"

Others said, "An angel spoke to him!"

30-33 Jesus said, "The voice didn't come for me but for you. At this moment the world is in crisis. Now Satan, the ruler of this world, will be thrown out. And I, as I am lifted up from the earth, will attract everyone to me and gather them around me." He put it this way to show how he was going to be put to death.

34 Voices from the crowd answered, "We heard from God's Law that the Messiah lasts forever. How can it be necessary, as you put it, that the Son of Man 'be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?"

35-36 Jesus said, "For a brief time still, the light is among you. Walk by the light you have so darkness doesn't destroy you. If you walk in darkness, you don't know where you're going. As you have the light, believe in the light. Then the light will be within you, and shining through your lives. You'll be children of light."

John 12.20-36 from The Message

Can you remember a time when you saw Jesus?

How did you feel?

How do you think the people felt about the image of burying the wheat

grain?

What challenge does Jesus give us in this passage?

How will you respond?

What picture of Jesus are you seeing in this reading?

You may want to write your thoughts about this down. It is called journal-ing and it is very 'in' at the moment; or you may well not. Either is fine, after all this is your journey.

There are other readings set for today if you want to read some more.
Isaiah 49.1-7: Psalm 71.1-14: 1 Corinthians 1.18-31.

A Prayer

**I look at you, Jesus,
and what do I see?**

**I've learned some familiar characteristics:
teacher, leader,
healer, saviour-
God....**

**But today, as I've read this story
once again, I look at you, Jesus,
and beyond the Gospel writer's
confident claims, I see your eyes -
eyes that are only partly focussed on
the present, because the hard road ahead
pulls insistently on your gaze.**

**I see a face lined prematurely with
the demands of love, truth and destiny.**

**I see hands, surprisingly delicate,
soft and sensitive enough
to hold without hurting,
and to administer a gentle, healing touch.**

**I see you, Jesus, and for a while
I'd like, simply, to stay and
take in what I see _
and then I'll follow,
as best I can,
the road you trod,
the way set for me**

Ian Fosten

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