

To Leave the Stones Unthrown (VT 580)

Verse 1:

To leave the stones unthrown, to turn the other cheek,
to bear a load an extra mile, to listen more than speak:
such are the marks of love, the testaments of grace,
the daily glimpses of the cross Christ calls us to embrace.

Verse 2:

Not only in extremes, in moments stark and clear,
in dark-night wrestling grim and fierce, or agony severe,
but in some faithful act, some scarcely conscious choice,
we find the grace to hear and heed the bidding of Christ's voice.

Verse 3:

New crosses wait each day, new challenges to meet,
new signposts for the way of life, new marks of death's defeat:
yet, be they great or small, unique or commonplace,
they help us look beyond ourselves to see and know Christ's face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr. (USA), © 2005 Hope Publishing Co.

Isaiah 50:4-10 (NRSV)

⁴ The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught. ⁵ The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward.
⁶ I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.
⁷ The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸ he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me. ⁹ It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up. ¹⁰ Who among you fears the LORD
and obeys the voice of his servant, who walks in darkness
and has no light, yet trusts in the name of the LORD
and relies upon his God?

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (VT 325)

Verse 1:

O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown!
O sacred Head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

Verse 2:

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain.
Mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place.
Look on me with thy favor, and grant to me thy grace.

Verse 3:

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest Friend,
for this, thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

Verse 4:

Be near when I am dying, oh, show thy cross to me,
and for my rescue, flying, come, Lord, and set me free!
These eyes, new faith receiving, from Jesus shall not move,
for one who dies believing dies safely, through thy love.

Text: based on "Salve caput cruentatum," anon. (present-day France), 13th c.; Paul Gerhardt (present-day Germany), "O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden," Praxis Pietatis Melica, 1656; trans. James W. Alexander (USA), rev. The Breaking Crucible, 1861

'bled dreams at holy week,' carrying the shadow, Patrick Friesen, p.24

bled dreams at holy week

blood cloistered
with the thick smell
of incense and wax

the dust and dull gold
of petrified flesh
air dense with gangrene

the mortified body
coiling and uncoiling
and shucking its skin

flayed and raw
and raised
above the human parade

John 18:33-19:19

18 ³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. ³⁹ But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰ They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

19 ¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³ They kept coming up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and striking him on the face. ⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.” ⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” ⁶ When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.” ⁷ The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.”

⁸ Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹ He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ Pilate therefore said to him, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?” ¹¹ Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” ¹² From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.”

¹³ When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, “Here is your King!” ¹⁵ They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but the emperor.” ¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; ¹⁷ and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”