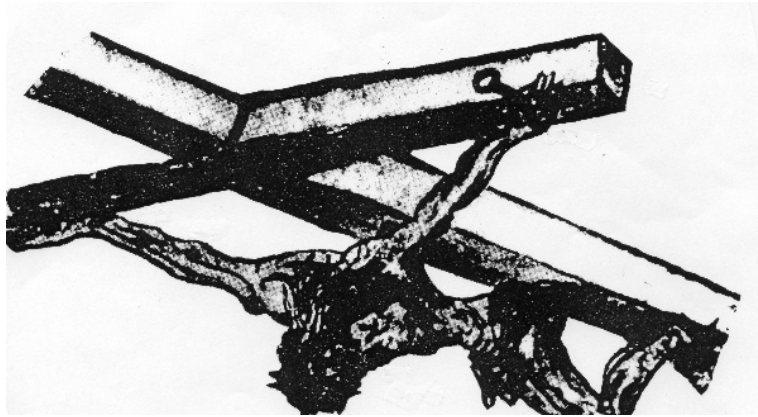


Suffering of Jesus

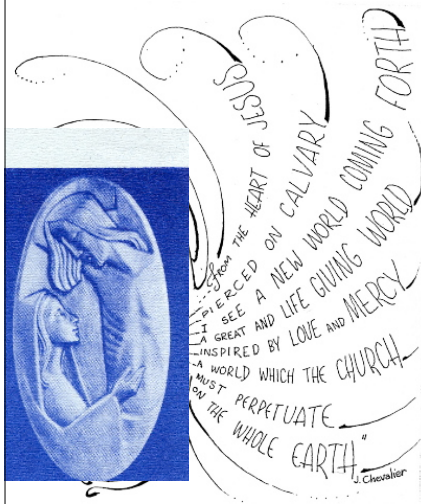


Drawing by Saint John of the Cross

1

‘When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me. And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him’(John 8:28-29).

3



‘The soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “They will look on the one whom they have pierced”(John 19:32-37).

‘I live now in faith, faith in the Son of God loving me and giving himself for me. I cannot give up God’s gift.’
(Galatians 2:21)

SPICED UP
FROM THE HEART OF JESUS
PIERCED ON CALVARY
I SEE A NEW WORLD COMING FORTH
A GREAT AND LIFE GIVING WORD
INSPIRED BY LOVE AND MERCY
A WORLD WHICH THE CHURCH
MUST PERPETUATE
ON THE WHOLE EARTH”
J. Chastelain

2

‘Though they found no cause for a sentence of death, those residing in Jerusalem and their leaders asked Pilate to have him killed, But God raised him from the dead’(Acts 13:28-30).

- The crucifying of Jesus was clearly sinful, and so against the will of God.

Sinful people committed the murder.
God ‘lifted up’ Jesus.

4

- God does not control the world.

God loves the world.

God respects our freedom, even to sin,

but God continues to love.

Sin does not have the last word.

Everything issues in good to those who welcome God's grace.

5

The unjust act of crucifying Jesus was against God's will

Jesus said: 'You kill me because there is no place in you for my word'(John 8:37).

Stephen accuses those who killed Jesus of 'opposing the Holy Spirit'(Acts 7:51).

'You are descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your ancestors ... Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!'(Matthew 23:31-32, 37).

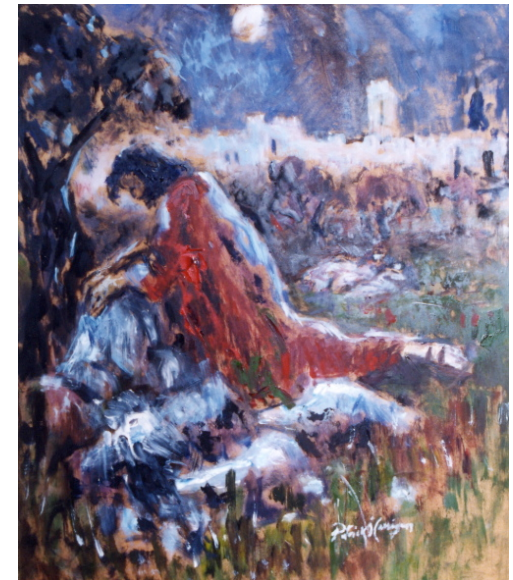
6

'The owner of the vineyard still had one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, 'Surely they will respect my son.' But those tenants said to one another, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard'(Mark 12:6-8).

'While Pilate was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him"'(Matthew 27:19).

7

'Jesus threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said: Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.'(Mark 14:35-36)



8

'Jesus took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them saying: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me'(Luke 22:19).



9

The good news ('gospel') is that real power, the power of God, is not a matter of control. It is a matter of love.

Were it a matter of control we would not be 'set free'. So-called religious obedience would be a servile submission to a controlling God, not a free, creative response in love to love. We would bury the wonderful gift of freedom. lest we offend. We would spend our life being careful, failing to live lest we make mistakes. We would be victims of superstition, caught up in trying to control God, to manipulate God into being on our side. We would conform to whatever so-called 'religious' system claimed to offered security.

10

Recognising God as Love, we might allow God's graceful Spirit to create in us, as God did in Jesus, someone who dares all for love. As Paul says: 'For freedom God has made us free. Stand firm then and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery'(Galatians 5:1).

If we believe the Gospel we will not fear God. Rather, we will fear our own capacity to fail in love. We will dare the journey of freedom, knowing that we are constantly graced by love. We will not avoid life and its risks for fear of God's punishment. Rather, we will take seriously the gift of freedom given to us by God.

11

Jesus' Heart is Pierced



'When the centurion, who stood facing him, saw how Jesus died, he said: Truly this man was God's Son!'

(Mark 15:39)

12



The sacrifice of the cross

On the cross Jesus offered his life, his love, his very self to God and to us in order to draw us into communion with God.

To be in communion with God
= to be made holy : *sacrum facere*
sacrifice

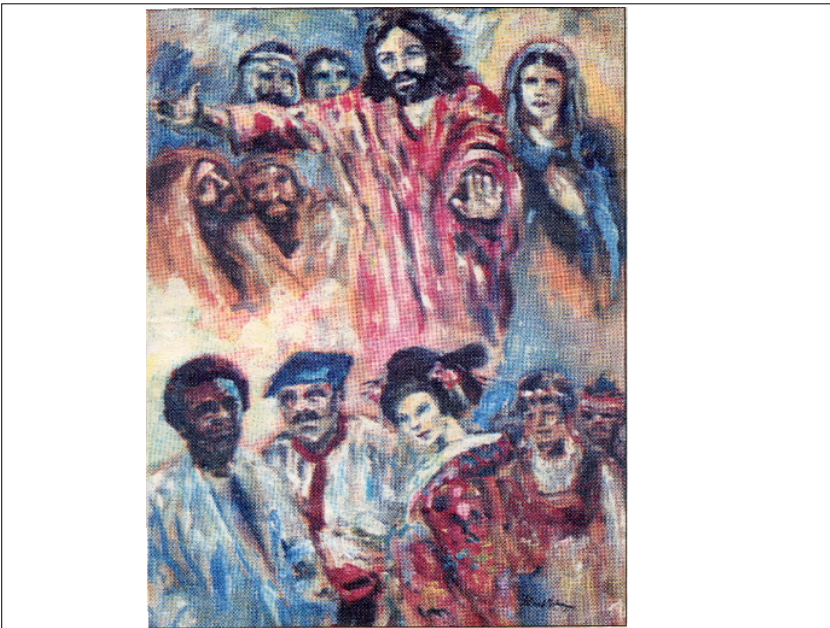
Jesus' death meant different things to Pilate, the high priest, the Pharisees and the crowd. To see what it meant to Jesus we go to the Last Supper.

13

Giotto



14



15