

THE TUESDAY TABLE

Gale PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 30th, 2021

ALAS AND DID MY SAVIOUR BLEED



“What Jesus was to Israel, the church must now be for the world. Everything we discover about what Jesus did and said within the Judaism of his day must be thought through in terms of what it would look like for the church to do and be this for the world. If we are to shape our world, and perhaps even to implement the redemption of our world, this is how it is to be done.”

(N.T. Wright)

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CALL TO WORSHIP: (From Psalm 22)

ONE: My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?

RESPONSE: O my God, I cry in the day time, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.

ONE: But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

RESPONSE: Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.

ONE: They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.

ALL: We cry – we are delivered – we are here.
Let us worship.

PRAYER:

HYMN: ALAS, AND DID MY SAVIOUR BLEED

Alas, and did my Saviour bleed,	Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And did my Sovereign die?	And shut its glories in,
Would he devote that sacred head	When Christ the great redeemer died
For sinners such as I?	For fallen creatures' sin.

Was it for sins that I have done	I, too, in shame would hide my face,
He groaned upon the tree?	While that dread cross appears;
Amazing pity, grace unknown,	Dissolve my heart in thankfulness
And love beyond degree!	And melt mine eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away:
'Tis all that I can do.

READ: (From Psalm 22)

Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.

My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

The assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me.

DO: Matthew 5:38-41

TURN

By turning the cheek, the ‘inferior’ is saying: “I’m a human being just like you. I refuse to be humiliated any longer. I am your equal. I am a child of God. I won’t take it anymore.” The system then loses its power to make people submit. And when large numbers begin behaving this way (Jesus was addressing a crowd), you have a social revolution on your hands.

STRIP

Jesus is not advising people to add to their disadvantage by renouncing justice altogether, he is telling impoverished debtors who have nothing left but the clothes on their backs, to use the system against itself. In addition, this unmasking is not simply punitive, since it offers the creditor a chance to see (perhaps for the first time) what his practices cause, and to repent.

WALK

Here the oppressed can recover the initiative and assert their human dignity in a situation that cannot for the time being be changed. Carrying the pack longer than allowed creates a host of problems for the empire.

DIE

In one final, swooping strike, Jesus uses the cross (a tool used to intimidate and dominate) against itself. In his exemplary death, he turns the system of the empire on its head and ushers in the ultimate reversal of power.

READ: (From Psalm 22)

But be not thou far from me, O Lord: O my strength, haste thee to help me.

Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION:

READ: (From Psalm 22)

Ye that fear the Lord, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel.

I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.

For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.

My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.

THE JUDE BENEDICTION

Now to him is able to keep you;	To the only God our saviour;
Who is able to keep you from stumbling,	Through Jesus Christ our lord;
And to make you stand in the presence;	Be glory, majesty, dominion and power
Of his glory, blameless with great joy.	For now, all time, and forever.

Amen, amen, amen.



NOTES: (From N.T. Wright)

In Matthew 5:38-41, Jesus inspires his listeners to face into the empire (anti-kingdom) that they find themselves in and to dream up new ways to overcome evil with good.