



March 27, 2025

The Women of Easter

Chapter 6 – *Thornes Thine Only Crown*

Social Time

Thanks to those who brought treats!

Bible Study Business

Prayer Requests and Update Prayer List

Opening Prayer

Hymns – Lisa Schlotterbeck

- ELW 351 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*
- ELW 336 *Lamb of God*
- ELW 712 *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

Scripture and Discussion

Luke 2:34-35 – Simeon's Prophecy - pp. 117-118

³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

1. How do you think Mary felt when she heard Simeon's prophecy?
 - a. To what extent do you think these prophetic words stayed with her over the years?
 - b. How might they have influenced the way she experienced what was going throughout Jesus' life and ministry?
 - c. How might they have affected the way she perceived Jesus' crucifixion?
2. What do you think it was like for Mary to raise a child she knew to be the Son of God?
 - a. As a mother, how would you approach this responsibility?

Mark 14:55-65 – Jesus Before the Council - pp. 121-125

⁵⁵Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. ⁵⁶For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, ⁵⁸"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build

another, not made with hands.”⁵⁹ But even on this point their testimony did not agree.⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?”⁶¹ But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”⁶² Jesus said, “I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,’ and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’”

⁶³ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? ⁶⁴ You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?” All of them condemned him as deserving death.⁶⁵ Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophecy!” The guards also took him over and beat him.

3. Did Jesus get a fair trial? Why or why not?
 - a. Why do you think he was silent in response to some of their questions?
4. On page 122 our author writes, “They couldn’t get their fabricated stories straight and so contradicted each other ... A lie is the truth turned upside down.”
 - a. What do you make of the contradictory testimony at Jesus’ trial?
5. What would it have taken for the Jewish leaders to accept that the Jewish Messiah had arrived?
 - a. When Jesus was asked if he was the Messiah and said “I am” why didn’t they take that more seriously?

Matthew 26:69-75 – Peter’s Denial of Jesus - pp. 125-126

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.”⁷⁰ But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.”⁷¹ When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.”⁷² Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.”⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.”⁷⁴ Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the cock crowed.⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

6. Have you been in a place where you took the “easier” path and didn’t acknowledge some aspect of your identity that was important to you?
 - a. What did that feel like?
7. Liz Curtis Higgs writes, “We grieve with Peter because we see ourselves in this disciple – loyal to Christ when it’s convenient but not when it might cost us something.” (p. 126)
 - a. Is she right?
8. Who do you think Peter’s denial was harder on, Peter or Jesus? Why?
 - a. What would have happened to Peter if he had acknowledged Jesus rather than denied knowing him?

Luke 23:1-25 Jesus Before Pilate – pp. 126-130

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate.² They began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.”³ Then Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” He answered, “You say so.”⁴ Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I

find no basis for an accusation against this man.”⁵ But they were insistent and said, “He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place.”

⁶When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷And when he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. ⁹He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. ¹²That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

¹³Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶I will therefore have him flogged and release him.” ¹⁸Then they all shouted out together, “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!” ¹⁹(This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) ²⁰Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; ²¹but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” ²²A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.” ²³But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. ²⁵He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

9. Why did Pilot not want to impose the death sentence on Jesus?
 - a. What impact do you think his wife’s sharing of her dream had on him? (pp. 127-128)
 - b. Why did he ultimately sentence Jesus to death?
10. Have you experienced a crowd acting more wildly than anyone would without the crowd? Tell us about it.
 - a. What example have you experienced where there was such a desire for “justice” that people pressured authorities to punish someone who didn’t deserve it?

Luke 23:26-43 The Crucifixion of Jesus pp. 130-141

²⁶As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ³¹For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?” ³²Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals,

one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

11. What do you make of the exchange between the women and Jesus in verses 27-31?

12. Although the male disciples scattered (except for John) the women were there with Jesus at this most difficult time.

a. On p. 130 our author raises the question, "Could you bear to watch Jesus' crucifixion?" – Could you?

b. What would have compelled you to be there or to turn away?

13. On p. 136 our author reminds us that Jesus prayed to his father to forgive those who were crucifying him and then she writes, "Let that sink in for a moment. He did not pray to be delivered from His pain. He did not pray for a swift end to His suffering. He did not pray for his Father to strike down Judas or Pilate or Herod of Caiaphas or anyone else who appeared to be responsible for His impending death. Jesus alone was responsible. He hung on the cross willing – no *willfully*. However helpless He appeared to others, He was entirely in control."

a. What wondrous love is this! Given Jesus' love for you, how will you respond?

A Story of Love *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...."* John 3:16

Gather round

I have a story to tell

of one who reached inside himself

and took a handful of love

like a pile of stardust

and said:

This is for you

It is all you need

It is all you will ever need

There is enough here

to change the whole world

Take it

Many laughed at him

mocked him

and ignored the invitation

But some dared to take it
 and those who did
 noticed something about this love
 They found they could do what the gift-giver could do
 They could stand with the lost
 welcome the traveler
 eat with the hungry
 They found themselves doing what the man first did to them
 give something of themselves to others
 They became like the man
 offering themselves

 And as they offered themselves
 others took the invitation
 And many still do
 And many still trust
 it is enough to change the whole world

Written by Roddy Hamilton, <http://newkilpatrickblog.typepad.com/nk-blogging/mucky-paws/>

Birthdays

Lord's Prayer

Upcoming Schedule

Date	Pages	Topic
4/3	143-166	<i>Women of Easter 7</i> – At the Cross Her Station Keeping
4/10	167-194	<i>Women of Easter 8</i> – I Know that My Redeemer Lives
4/17		Holy Week – No Bible Study
4/24		Pastor Marla on vacation Pastor Elaine to lead Bible Study on the topic of Prayer
		During May continue with <i>Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith</i>
5/1	10-12	Assemblies of God (Pentecostal)
5/8	114-116	Salvation Army
5/15	76-81	Judaism
5/22		Pre-Memorial Day Weekend – No Bible Study
5/29	67-71	Islam
		New Topic for the Summer – To be chosen