


## Tuesday: Healing

Just two days ago, we celebrated Palm Sunday and the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem, where the crowds were shouting Hosanna, Hosanna and waving palms - here was Jesus, the man coming to save them from the Romans, the expected Messiah. A day of great Joy!

We thought about how quickly people can turn, and we remembered how fickle humanity can be - the people who were waving palms on Palm Sunday probably included people who were later to shout 'Crucify Him' on the Friday. One minute the crowds thought Jesus was wonderful, the next they were willing to let him die - even his best friends were to abandon him.

I wonder what we would have done if we had been part of this story? I know we like to think with the benefit of hindsight, that we would have acted differently to the people who changed and called for Jesus' death - and yet we are all part of our broken humanity. We all are on our journeys with God and are not yet perfect.

There is a striking line in a well-known song by Stuart Townend "How deep the Fathers love for us" – it's a song that has so many meanings, but tells mostly of the deep love that God has for each one of us. But the middle verse says this -



Behold the man upon a cross,  
My sin upon his shoulders;  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held him there  
Until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath will bring me life -  
I know that it is finished.

Stuart Townend here, voices how we as humans get caught up in the world and its ways. It speaks of how we as humans can get things terribly wrong. We can sometimes follow the crowd and forget how precious life with God is.

Then those last two lines - here is an apparent contradiction - how can a dying breath bring life?

In our daily prayers this week we read words from St Paul's letter to the Corinthians - 'For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God'

Because it would appear foolish for Jesus, who died a horrible, lonely death to be able to bring new life. Yet it is in this foolishness that we too are offered the gift of eternal life with Jesus that starts with our lives now.

Jesus himself said "Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies it produces many seeds".

This is the apparent contradiction and foolishness of Jesus, he died that we could all have new life in Him - that we could die to all the things we get wrong and just as a seed then sprouts and grows we can gain new life for ourselves and for others with Jesus.

Of course, as human beings we will always continue to get things wrong, but if we give our imperfections to Jesus he will take them away and if we accept his forgiveness he will replace our imperfections with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

This Holy Week we have the opportunity to come afresh to Jesus. To accept the offering he made for all of us on the cross and to offer ourselves to him. Knowing that he loves us so much that he died for us and it is by his wounds that we are healed.

We can come to him knowing that he longs to bring to us wholeness and healing in our bodies, minds and spirits. To enjoy life in all its abundance in his care - in our lives today and into eternity.

We can come to him who gave up his life so that we could gain ours.

Amen

