

Father, I want those you have given me to be
with me where I am (John 17:24)

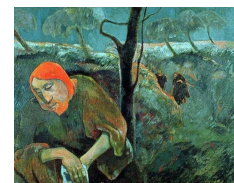


Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane by Paul Gauguin

Prays for His Disciples

17 After the meal... Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

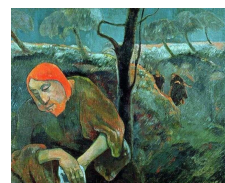


²⁰‘I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵‘Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.’

On this night, dear Christ, you stooped to the ground
Making yourself vulnerable for those you loved.
Release us from the need to dominate and help us recognise your face in
human suffering.

On this night, dear Christ, you showed the intimacy of your love as a friend
laid his head upon your breast.
Help us to give and receive love
Without counting the cost.



On this night, dear Christ,
You wept at the thought of what lay ahead.
Be with those who weep tonight,
With those who fear the future
And especially those who face death without the comfort of friends.

On this night, dear Christ,
You knelt in silence and entrusted your will to the Father.
Speak to the concerns of our own hearts,

that we may come to share that trust. Amen.

Jesus, I hesitate now.
Why are you intent on cutting through the safe image I have of you?
You as the servant of all?

I need you as the figure up front,
the decisive leader,
The one behind who we can unite.

This humility offends me.
You're asking me to let go,
To rethink my definitions,
To release myself from status,
To relinquish all the norms and the rules
That serve me so well;

You're asking me to act and not to count the cost,
To take the towel and wash the feet,
You're urging me to count as nothing
the well earned place;
I've become accustomed to in your kingdom.

I believe in your kingdom come on earth –
But has it really come to this?
Is it I who will betray you?

I feel your kiss of love in the sharing of bread;
But all my kiss will smack of bitterness,
Resentment, that I have been stripped of my little bit of power?
You say this feast is open to all;
You say your life is given for all –
Poured out for all –
My head spins at the giddy depths of a love that will not discriminate,
That refuses to make conditions.
I cannot live like that.

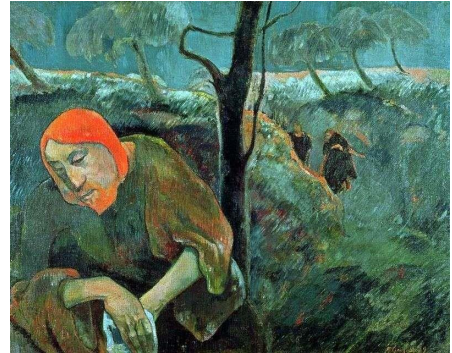


WATCHING IN PRAYER AT HOME *Holy Thursday 2020*

I need my boundaries –
I need to know who to love, who to avoid.
I've found my place, here,
Comfortable amid those with whom I rub shoulders,
And I wouldn't ask for it any other way.

'Every time you share this feast, remember me.'

'This is my broken body' –
Take, handle, touch, drink, feed,
O God, can heaven be so earthy?



I see your eyes glistening now,
With the tears that can't hold back.
Then I too will weep,
Weep for the chaos and the conflict that
Won't subside in me;
Weep for this cruel peace that engulfs my unanswered questions
And offers no relief;
Weep for this cup that will not pass by. (Dilly Baker – *A Place at the Table*)

Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land! And so, I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man! Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord! Closing lines of Martin Luther King's Final Speech

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.

Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O LORD.
But I trust in you, O LORD;
I say, 'You are my God.'
My times are in your hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies
and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servant;
save me in your steadfast love.

Do not let me be put to shame,
O LORD, for I call on you;
let the wicked be put to shame;
let them go dumbfounded to Sheol.

Let the lying lips be stilled
that speak insolently against the righteous with pride and contempt. (Psalm 30)



Father I abandon myself
into your hands;
do with me what you will.

Whatever you may do,

I thank you:

I am ready for all, I accept all.

Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures.

I wish no more than this, O Lord.

Into your hands

I commend my soul;

I offer it to you

with all the love of my heart,

for I love you, Lord,

and so need to give myself,

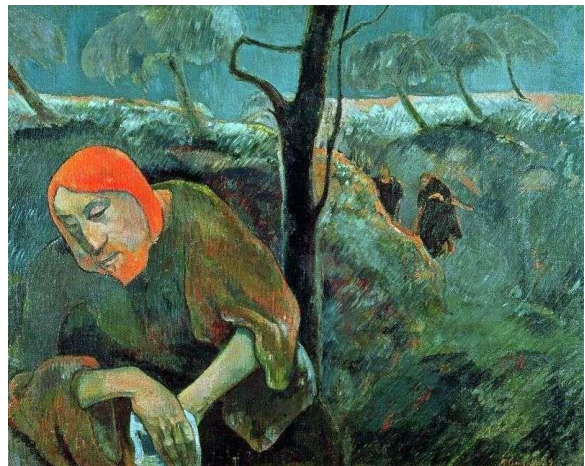
to surrender myself

into your hands,

without reserve,

and with boundless confidence,

for you are my Father.



Charles de Foucauld

Take, O Lord,
and receive my entire liberty,
my memory, my understanding
and my whole will.

All that I am and all that I possess You have given me.

I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will.

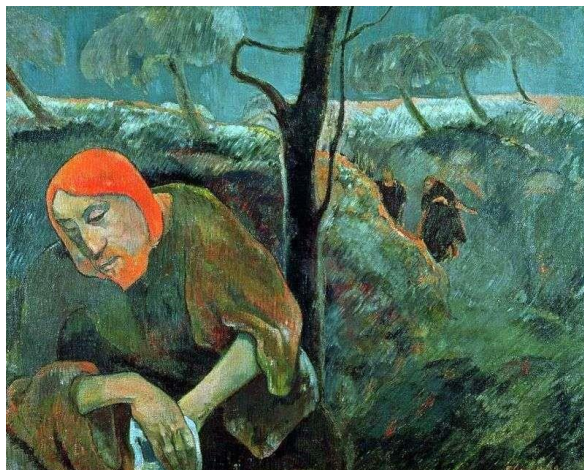
Give me only Your love

and Your grace;

with these I will be rich enough,

and will desire nothing more.

St Ignatius Loyola



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Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2: 2-10)

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