

[10-0379-0000000000]

"IT IS ENOUGH"

April 19, '84

"It is enough." I HAVE PLUCKED THESE THREE WORDS FROM A BRIEF AND PUZZLING PASSAGE IN LUKE'S GOSPEL WHICH MATTHEW IGNORES. LUKE TELLS US THAT AS JESUS MOVED WITH HIS DISCIPLES THROUGH THE DARK STREET OF JERUSALEM TOWARDS THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE HE WARNED THEM OF THE DANGERS LYING IN WAIT. HE SAID THAT THEY WERE NOW TO GO FULLY EQUIPPED TO MEET THE ENEMY, AND WE ARE ASTONISHED TO READ THE WORDS, "WHOEVER DOES NOT HAVE A SWORD MUST SELL HIS COAT AND BUY ONE." THE INCIDENT ENDS WITH THE DISCIPLES SAYING: "LOOK! HERE ARE TWO SWORDS, LORD" "IT IS ENOUGH!" HE REPLIED.

WAS JESUS CONTEMPLATING ARMED RESISTANCE? OR WAS HE WARNING THE DISCIPLES TO BE PREPARED FOR A SUDDEN AMBUSH? OR WAS THERE A SUBTLE IRONY IN THE WHOLE SITUATION -- WHICH IS SUGGESTED BY THE ALTERNATIVE TRANSLATION: "ENOUGH OF THIS!"? AFTER ALL, WHEN PETER DID ACTUALLY USE HIS SWORD AND CUT OFF THE EAR OF THE HIGH PRIEST'S SERVANT JESUS SAID: "ENOUGH OF THIS" AND HEALED THE MAN. I THINK PERHAPS WE CAN GUESS WHY MATTHEW OMITTED THE PREVIOUS CONVERSATION AND ADDED JESUS' WORDS: "ALL WHO TAKE THE SWORD WILL DIE BY THE SWORD."

~~TODAY~~ I DON'T WANT TO PLUNGE YOU INTO THIS QUESTION OF SCRIPTURAL INTERPRETATION. I AM TAKING THE LIBERTY OF EXTRACTING THE WORDS: "IT IS ENOUGH" FROM LUKE'S STORY AND APPLYING THEM TO THE ENTIRE NARRATIVE OF THE EVENTS OF THURSDAY NIGHT AS WE HAVE JUST LISTENED TO THEM THIS EVENING AS EACH SUCCESSIVE PASSAGE WAS READ BRINGING BEFORE OUR EYES WHAT JESUS ENDURED FROM FRIENDS AND ENEMIES AND NEUTRAL POWERS, AND MAKING US WONDER WHAT EACH SUCCESSIVE BLOW WAS DOING TO HIM, ISN'T THERE SOMETHING IN US THAT WANTS TO CRY OUT "ENOUGH! ENOUGH! ISN'T THERE SOME LIMIT TO WHAT A HUMAN BEING CAN ENDURE?"

MANY OF US HEAR ~~OR~~ OR READ ABOUT THE BLIZZARDS ^{during the} ~~THE~~ WINTER IN SOME OF THE NORTHERN STATES. FOR MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN THEIR SNUG HOMES IT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN MUCH TO COMPLAIN ABOUT BUT IT WAS A SYMBOL OF SOMETHING THAT CAN REALLY DRAG YOU DOWN TO DESPAIR. HAVEN'T WE ALL KNOWN THOSE TIMES WHEN TROUBLES SEEM TO COME IN ENDLESS PROCESSION. WE BRACE OURSELVES AGAINST ONE BLOW, THEN ANOTHER COMES, AND ANOTHER AND ANOTHER UNTIL MAYBE A COMPARATIVELY PETTY ANNOYANCE IS THAT LAST STRAW THAT BREAKS THE CAMEL'S BACK, AND WE FEEL LIKE SCREAMING ENOUGH! I DON'T BELIEVE THERE'S ANYONE WHO GOES THROUGH LIFE WITHOUT SOME MOMENT WHEN EVERYTHING SEEMS TOO MUCH, AND WE WANT TO TELL OUR GOD THAT IT'S ENOUGH, WE CAN'T

TAKE ANY MORE. PERHAPS THERE ARE SOME SAINTS WHOSE PATIENCE NEVER CRACKS, BUT I DOUBT IT. WE TALK ABOUT THE PATIENCE OF JOB WHO IS THE SYMBOL OF THIS BLIZZARD-AFTER-BLIZZARD EXPERIENCE, BUT IT WAS HE WHO CRIED OUT THAT HE HAD HAD ENOUGH -- "EVEN TODAY IS MY COMPLAINT BITTER: MY SHRIEK IS HEAVIER THAN MY GROANING" -- AND IT WAS HE WHO REBELLED AGAINST THE APPARENT INDIFFERENCE OF GOD. -- "OH THAT I KNEW WHERE I MIGHT FIND HIM"... I WOULD ORDER MY CAUSE BEFORE HIM, AND FILL MY MOUTH WITH ARGUMENTS." THE TRUTH IS THAT IT IS OFTEN THOSE WHOM WE THINK OF AS THE MOST CHRISTIAN OF ALL OUR FRIENDS WHO SEEM TO BE THE VICTIMS OF THIS BLIZZARD-AFTER-BLIZZARD OF ILLNESS, BEREAVEMENT, ACCIDENT, FINANCIAL WORRY, DISAPPOINTMENTS, AND MENTAL STRESS.

DO YOU BLAME YOURSELF WHENEVER YOU REACH THAT POINT WHERE YOU TELL YOUR GOD "IT IS ENOUGH?" DO YOU, IN FACT, ADD YET ONE MORE BLIZZARD BY CONDEMNING YOUR LACK OF FAITH AND CRYING OUT AS THE POET AND HYMN-WRITER COWPER DID WHEN HE WAS ON THE EDGE OF A MENTAL BREAKDOWN:

"WHERE IS THE BLESSEDNESS I KNEW,
WHEN FIRST I SAW THE LORD?"

THERE'S NO NEED TO HEAP THIS BURDEN ON THE OTHERS. FOR GOD KNOWS THAT WHEN WE REACH THE LIMITS OF ENDURANCE THE FAITH THAT BEARS US UP IS NOT A CALM AND BLISSFUL CERTAINTY THAT ALL IS WELL BUT AN ALMOST UNCONSCIOUS CONVICTION THAT THERE IS A FLOOR TO OUR SUFFERINGS THROUGH WHICH WE CANNOT DROP, FOR UNDERNEATH ARE THE EVERLASTING ARMS." EVEN WHEN THE MIND IS NUMBERED AND THE HEART IN AGONY, WE HAVE NOT LOST THIS FAITH WHEN WE CRY WITH JESUS: "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?"

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL LIES IN THIS STORY OF THE SON OF GOD WHO DREW UPON HIMSELF EVERY HORROR THAT A HUMAN BEING CAN KNOW. THERE ARE MANY RELIGIONS THAT OFFER US A GOD WHO DWELLS BEYOND THESE HUMAN PANGS, A GOD WHO SIMPLY EXPECTS US TO ACCEPT HIS INSCRUTABLE JUDGMENTS, OR A GOD WHO ASSURES US THAT OUR SUFFERINGS ARE NOT REAL BUT JUST A TEMPORARY SHADOW ON AN OTHERWISE PERFECT WORLD. ONLY THE GOSPEL TELLS US OF A GOD WHOSE SON, HIS HUMAN SELF, KNEW WHAT IT WAS TO GO THROUGH THE POUNDING OF BODY AND SOUL, BLOW AFTER BLOW, TO THE LAST HELL OF LONELINESS AND DESPAIR.

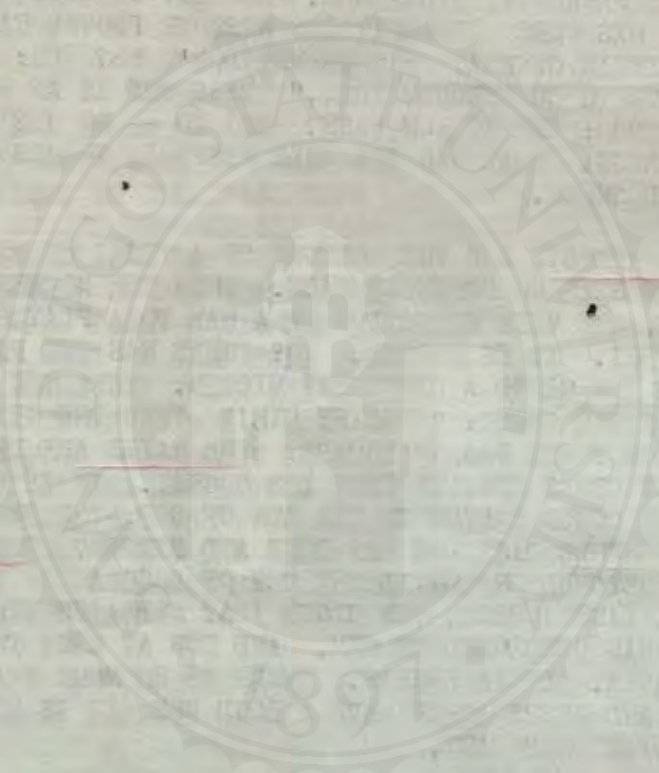
ALREADY AS HE SAT DOWN TO HAVE HIS LAST SUPPER WITH HIS FRIENDS HE KNEW THAT HE WAS BEING BETRAYED INTO THE HANDS OF HIS MOST SAVAGE ENEMIES, AND BETRAYED BY ONE BESIDE HIM AT TABLE. ALREADY HE HAD SEEN IN THE TOUCHING GESTURE OF THE

WOMAN WHO POURED THE OINTMENT ON HIS HEAD THE SINISTER SIGN THAT HIS BODY WAS BEING READIED FOR BURIAL. ALREADY IN THE BROKEN BREAD ON THE TABLE HE FELT THE WRENCHING AND TEARING OF HIS LIMBS, AND THE POURED-OUT WINE HIS OWN BLOOD BEING DRAINED AWAY. THEN, WITH A HYMN, THEY PASSED OUT INTO THE BLIZZARD OF EVIL THAT AWAITED HIM ON THE DARKENED STREETS AND THE OMINOUS QUIET OF GETHSEMANE. AS HE WENT HE KNEW THAT EVEN THE CONSOLATION OF THE PRESENCE OF HIS FRIENDS WAS GOING TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM HIM. "THIS VERY NIGHT ALL OF YOU WILL RUN AWAY AND LEAVE ME." THEN IN A LONELY CORNER OF THE GARDEN HE PLEADS WITH HIS GOD. SURELY, SURELY, NOW IT IS ENOUGH. HIS WORST REMONITIONS MUST BE PROVED FALSE. WE KNOW A LITTLE OF WHAT THIS MEANS, DON'T WE? NO: SURELY I WON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH THAT." THIS CUP IS AT HIS LIPS. IT IS ENOUGH: LET IT NOW PASS. BUT NO -- HE MUST DRAIN IT TO THE DREGS. THAT WAS THE ONLY RESPONSE TO HIS PRAYER IN BLOOD AND SWEAT.

THEN THE ARREST, AND THE HORRORS OF A TRIAL WHERE AS HE LOOKS AROUND HE SEES NO FRIENDLY FACE. THEN THE MOCKERY OF THE SOLDIERS, THE VILE REDUCTION OF A MAN TO A PLAYTHING FOR THEIR SPORT. IT IS ENOUGH. NO! THERE WAS THE FARCE OF OFFERING THE CROWD A DIFFERENT VICTIM. THEN THE TERRIFYING SCREAM OF THE CROWD: "CRUCIFY HIM!" THEN THE VIA DOLOROSA FROM WHICH THERE WAS NO ESCAPE. THE NAILS ARE DRIVEN IN, AND THE HEAVY CROSS DROPPED INTO ITS SOCKET. IT IS ENOUGH. WHAT MORE COULD HAPPEN TO THE SON OF GOD, THE SON OF MAN IN WHOM OUR HUMAN PASSIONS RAN DEEP AND STRONG? THE HOURS OF AGONY STRETCHED OUT UNTIL THE CRY OF DESOLATION TELLS US THAT THE LAST HORROR, THE CLOUD THAT SEPARATES HIM FROM THE FATHER, HAS DESCENDED ON HIM. AND NOW AT LAST THE ECHO COMES FROM HEAVEN. IT IS ENOUGH. THERE IS NO MORE THAT HE CAN SUFFER. AND JESUS AGAIN GAVE A LOUD CRY (IT IS FINISHED!) AND BREATHED HIS LAST.

AND NOW WE, LIVING ON THE OTHER SIDE OF EASTER, KNEW THAT IT WAS INDEED ENOUGH. JESUS HAD BEEN THROUGH THE MOST FEARFUL BLIZZARD OF EVIL THAT ANY OF US CAN KNOW, AND HE CAME BACK TO GIVE US THE DELIVERANCE AND THE VICTORY. WHAT HE SUFFERED WAS ENOUGH TO LIFT THE WEIGHT OF SIN FROM THE HUMAN RACE. IT WAS ENOUGH TO DEMONSTRATE THE DEPTH TO WHICH THE LOVE OF GOD WOULD GO TO BRING US PRODIGALS BACK INTO THE FAMILY. IT WAS ENOUGH TO RELEASE INTO THE WORLD A COMPASSION THAT IS INEXHAUSTIBLE, AND A LOVE FROM WHICH NEITHER THINGS PRESENT NOR THINGS TO COME, NOR HEIGHT, NOR DEPTH, NOR ANY OTHER CREATURE, SHALL EVER BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US.

IT IS ENOUGH. HE HAS BEEN THERE. HIS TRACKS ARE IN EVERY
BLIZZARD THAT MAY STRIKE -- AND THEY LEAD THROUGH TO THE
OTHER SIDE, IT IS A LITTLE THING -- THIS BREAD WHICH IS HIS
BODY. THIS CUP WHICH IS HIS BLOOD. BUT IT IS ENOUGH, FOR
THESE SIGNS ARE LOADED WITH THE BENEFITS OF HIS PASSION,
THESE SYMBOLS ARE ALIVE WITH HIS PRESENCE. AS WE SHARE THEM
ON THIS HOLY ~~TABLE~~, HE TELLS US WHAT HE HAS TOLD HIS DIS-
CIPLES IN EVERY AGE: "NO MATTER WHAT YOU ARE GOING THROUGH
NOW, NO MATTER WHAT LIES AHEAD, MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR
YOU." IT IS ENOUGH.



Mary...
listened
to his
teaching

Luke 10:39



July 2, 1989

10:30 AM

PREPARATION OF OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

"Let the people be in silent meditation and prayer upon entering the sanctuary."

WE PRAISE GOD

ORGAN PRELUDE

Organist

CHORAL INTROIT "All People Of God" Chancel Choir

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*HYMN OF PRAISE "Open My Eyes" # 390

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Praise God with shouts of joy, all people!

People: Sing to the glory of his name; offer him glorious praise!

Pastor: Say to God, "How wonderful are the things you do! Your power is so great that your enemies bow down in fear before you.

People: Everyone on earth worships you! they sing praises to you, they sing praises to your name.

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us, from all offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires; that with lowliness and meekness we may draw near to Thee, confessing our faults, confiding in Thy grace, and finding in Thee our refuge and our strength. Through Jesus Christ Thy Son. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "The Apostles' Creed" P. 12

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

ANTHEM

"Majesty"

Chancel Choir

- Hayford and Schrader

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: Let us pray

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

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RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

"In This Quiet Moment"

"Reach Out and Touch"

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

"Hold On"

Chancel Choir

- Arr. Jester Hairston

*DOXOLOGY

544

"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THREEFOLD AMEN

GOD SPEAKS TO US

SCRIPTURE

Luke 22:10-20; 36-38

MUSICAL SELECTION

"Lead Me, Guide Me" Chancel Choir
Dolores E. Stevens, Soloist

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Rev. George W. Smith

"It Is Enough"

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

*HYMN OF APPROACH

449

"For The Bread Which Thou Hast Broken"

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

THANKSGIVING AFTER THE SUPPER

*INVITATIONAL HYMN

"Just As I Am"

272

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

"God Be With You"

ORGAN POSTLUDE

TO OUR GUEST - You are welcome to our worship service and all activities of the church. Please help us to know you by signing the record of attendance sheet as you enter the foyer. You are invited to meet with others in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments. Please come again and invite your friends and neighbors to come with you.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR, we invite you to come to the front of the sanctuary during the invitational hymn. Elders will be at the front of the sanctuary to greet you.

THE FLOWERS FOR TODAY were placed in the sanctuary by Dr. and Mrs. Carl Smith and daughter Sharion in honor of Mrs. Smith's sisters who are visiting here.

HOSTING THE FELLOWSHIP HOUR TODAY will be Dr. Payton C. Cook in honor of his birthday.

CHRIST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO
3025 Fir Street at 30th
San Diego, Calif. 92102

Phone: 239-2346/2347

Office Hours: 9 AM to 2 PM

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| Minister: | Rev. George W. Smith |
| Assistant to the Minister for Community Affairs: | Mr. Donald Gullans |
| Parish Associate: | Rev. Burton S. Smith |
| Chancel Choir Director: | Mrs. Dolores Stevens |
| Youth Choir Director: | Mrs. Teena Cross |
| Youth Choir Pianist: | Mr. Victor Manieson |
| Organist: | Ms. Juanita Dentham |
| Pianist, Church School: | Mr. Guy Reavis |
| Church School Superintendent: | Ms. Carolyn Y. Smith |