



Episode 13: The Wondrous Cross

"...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

{ Hebrews 12:2 }

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

I was struck today as I prayed the Stations of the Cross with some of my local parish that much of what we do in life, much of what we take on and hope to achieve are on the other side often of big challenging moments. Even the really good and rewarding stuff, be it raising a family, be it vocation or job, or be it ministry in the parish, much of it comes through the small crosses that we bear as disciples.

You can get to the point where you think 'is it worth the effort?' Then we are reminded, as we join our Lord in his journey to Calvary, that the crosses we bear are nothing in comparison to the wondrous cross He bore for us.

This is our our prayer this evening as we close: Our broken hearts and broken dreams, we bring them to the cross. Our angry words and angry deeds, we bring them to the cross. The suffering in our lives, we bring them to the cross. Our selfishness and greed, our needing and our wanting, we bring them to the cross. Our doubts and our fears, our faith and our hope we bring them to the cross. For the cross is our salvation.

We begin Holy Week this coming Palm Sunday and enter into this journey to the Cross and the Passion of our Lord as we only do in this great week. We we do, I pray it will be a journey that keeps our eyes not just on the cross but on the new life offered to us all on the other side of it.

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Words by Isaac Watts

Tune of 'O Waly Waly' Trad.

How are you inspired when you survey
the wondrous Cross Jesus bore for us?