

From the Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster  
Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Good Friday  
Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; Matthew 26:14-27:66

Have you ever been in a situation where you wish you could just go to sleep and only wake up after or be transported quickly to next week or when the pain and worry would be over?

There is value in going through this and there may be lessons to learn. In fact, in some churches, they have the stations of the cross 14 stations where they pause and contemplate what is happening at each of the stations to get a full picture of the crucifixion.

After we have heard the gospel read, what do we focus on?  
There are the seven words of Jesus from different Gospel for contemplation.

Father forgive them they know not what they do.  
Today you will be with me in paradise.  
Woman behold your son... Behold your mother.  
I thirst.  
My God my God why have you forsaken me?  
It is finished.  
Father into your hands I commend my spirit.

But what can we glean from the Matthew version alone?  
Not just from the cross but the whole passage?

Some thoughts but not exhaustive.

‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.

Judas kissing Jesus.

‘Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

But Jesus was silent. A few times in the passage.

Peter saying: ‘I do not know the man.’ Three times.

‘He saved others; he cannot save himself.

‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’

Therefore, command that the tomb be made secure until the third day; otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, “He has been raised from the dead.

Amen