

Monday Holy week 2009

What happened next....?

'Did you really ride on a Donkey?'

'He did' Peter replied to Mary,

'A colt? A foal? Never ridden on before?'

'He did' Andrew, to Lazarus

'And what did the Pharisees say to that?' said Martha as she brought water to wash with, wine to drink and bread, and olives and other tasty morsels to stave off the hunger of these 13 adventurous men, dinner wouldn't be ready for a while and she wanted to hear all that had happened.

'Nothing much', said John quietly, 'not yet anyway...'

'And what about the people? Did they get it? Did they understand?'

'Yes, Martha, they understood' and Jesus took the glass from her hand, a glass of the best she had,

'Oh they understood alright!', said James and John and Andrew and Peter, fighting over their words

'Did you see them, tearing down branches from the trees!'

'And ripping the clothes off their own backs'

'laying them on the ground to be trodden on'

'And the noise! Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna!' and the men danced around the room, swinging their own cloaks around their heads

'Yes', said John quietly, as Lazarus took their cloaks from them and lay them down in the corner of the room, 'Hosanna, but also blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, blessed is the coming Kingdom of our Father David'

‘So, they did get it, at last they know, at last they understand’, said Lazarus...

‘So now, will you take your Kingdom? Now will you act?’
Judas paced... ‘Is the waiting finally over?’

‘Jesus? Jesus?’

Silence

‘Almost, but others have to act first, there are still words to be spoken, things to be done’

‘But the donkey, the colt, surely that would have rattled the High Priest’s cage; he would know that you were acting out the prophecy in Isaiah?’

‘Not acting out Lazarus, you should know the difference between acting something out and making something real...’

‘So you were *fulfilling* the prophecy?’ the more Martha listened the more she understood. Martha shivered and lit the lamps.

‘So, you rode on a colt, fulfilling a prophecy, as you entered Jerusalem’

‘Not just Jerusalem, the very Temple!’, James...

‘so, you entered the Temple as the people praised you and praised God and called upon him to act now in bringing his kingdom!’

‘Yes, Mary’,

‘And the priests said nothing?’

‘No Martha’

‘Not yet, but they will be plotting and planning, they’ll get you Jesus, they’ll get all of us, we’ll never be able to go back to Jerusalem now, never be able to worship at the Temple again’

‘But we will, Thomas, we will go’

'oh Jesus...'

'But not tonight! Tonight we eat, tonight we feast. Tonight you are with us and supper is ready, come...'

'Thank you Martha' Jesus stood and kissed Martha's head, 'thank you, you have always looked after us all so well, thank you'

'Tonight, you are our king, tonight we worship you, tonight we serve you, in our own little kingdom' and Mary danced off after Martha, singing her hosannas.

'And then you will stay with us, for the night, your room is ready, as always...'

'Lazarus, you are a good friend to me, a brother; James, John, Andrew - all of you why don't you make yourself useful to Martha and Mary, Thadeus, Judas, bring in our things from outside, and tidy away those cloaks'... the men bustled off...

'If it wasn't for you Jesus, I wouldn't be here at all,'

'I know, and I'm sorry I couldn't prevent you from dying at all, but you know why'

'I do..., I think, or at least I trust that I will do one day. I trust you Jesus, you know that.'

'Thank you Lazarus, but Lazarus, tell me what it was like, before...'

'Before you came back to me?,'

'Before I brought you back. I have a hunger to know'

'It was, it was like nothing. It was though I was waiting for something, for someone. Everything stopped and I was waiting for it to begin again'

'And when it did begin again?'

'It was as if I had been underwater and couldn't hear, and now suddenly I could, and I could breathe again such sweet air, clean and fresh as if the rain had just fallen, and the sun felt warm on my

skin, but the real warmth was coming from the inside,

And when Martha and Mary helped me out of the grave cloths, my skin looked blue, but it had felt grey, and then you touched me, just gently, and do you remember, did you notice, the blueness became warm, and it wasn't just the sun, it spread from where your skin had touched mine'.

'So it did'

'but why ask me now, you've never asked before...'

'I have never felt the need to before, but now, now things are different,'

'Different?'

'And I think it will be for me, I expect to be much busier...'

'Hey sanna, hosanna, sanna, sanna, hey sanna, hosanna....'

'Do we make good courtiers?' Andrew asked as he and the other men bring in the food,

'Would you like me to be your taster? Your majesty?' Peter bowed in playful manner,

And Mary laid rose petals at Jesus' feet,

'Not yet Mary', and the two fixed their eyes upon each other, as if they knew something the others didn't

'What was all that about?'

'Judas, now is not the time for brooding, now is the time for eating, and singing, and enjoying each other's company. Now is the time to enjoy each other, and to be thankful for all that we give to each other. I am thankful for all that you have been to me, I am thankful for having had you in my life - all of you, even you Judas. Thank you.

Now we eat, and tomorrow, Thomas, we return to Jerusalem, to the Temple.'

Lynne Chitty prayer.