

Mark 14&15

Good Friday

April 5, 1985

Alone. The night is long, the child is very sick, <sup>his temperature rises</sup> ~~raising her temperature~~ <sup>higher and higher,</sup> ~~goes higher and higher.~~ The mother feels so very alone.

Alone. The widow says, for twenty three years ~~ā~~ have been alone. Tears form in the corners of her eyes as her mind wanders to the pain of loneliness.

Alone. The debts are higher than the assets. And when he goes downtown <sup>to</sup> every face ~~he searches~~ for accusation and ridicule. No one says a word but the thoughts he is sure they are thinking make it harder and harder to share a cup of coffee, to even say hello.

Alone. The boy was born retarded. And the neighbors think he ought to play somewhere else. And the children make fun of him. And Mom and Dad are just too busy sometimes.

Alone. The marriage has failed. Two people who promised to never fail each other, have. All the friends they had together, don't seem to work out now that they are apart. And everyone, especially family <sup>feels anger</sup> ~~is sort of angry~~ because their ~~real clean~~ world has been <sup>changed.</sup> ~~dirtyed.~~

Alone. She waits for him to come home. And wonders what it will be like tonight. Will that booze that ~~owns~~ <sup>drugs</sup> his heart drive him to shout, to strike, or, to sleep?

Alone.

God's story this day is not about blood or pain, it is about alone. Every friend gone, soldiers and priests and folks just walking by all laughing and jeering. Alone. Even the two hanging there on that hill with him found a way to get their mind off themselves for a moment by ridiculing him.

In all the world there was not a sign that anyone cared, no sign from heaven either that this dying man was not simply alone. Forsaken by all he cries out, My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?

You and I will never walk a path so lonely that he will not come with us. He endured alone, that we might never be without him. When the ache is deep in our chest, and no one understands, he does. Jesus, rejected by the whole world, and <sup>by</sup> every one, is our Lord who never leaves us, alone.