

Lent Day 37
Wednesday March 23, 2016

Reading: Mark 14.32-42

Reflection

One morning when I was in high school an ex-girlfriend came up to me and announced that 'Steve' was coming to beat me up after school (not exactly the phrase used). Once I figured out who this was and why this was I then thought of what to do. It seemed inevitable that it was going to happen; running would only delay it (in Malvern people are pretty determined). What I wanted more than anything was for my brother to be there. Not to stop the fight or fight for me, but to make sure the fight was okay. I just needed his solidarity. Unfortunately he didn't show.

That's something of what's happening in this passage. Jesus is about to go to his death - it is necessary. I often think that having the disciples, his friends, with him helped him wrestle his fear. But most of all he wanted them to stand with him in solidarity; after all it's for them! But they don't. They are tired. It's after a meal, it might be late, or the whole idea too distressful to think about. They sleep instead.

This is a pretty good metaphor for us too isn't it? We are meant to stand with God in his grand plan to save the world. We are meant to be a foretaste of the kingdom, we are meant to be a sign, we are meant to be ambassadors. Instead, we doze off. We get drawn into normal life. The good news is the mission is not dependant on us for success.

But, that doesn't mean keep sleeping. It's not too late to wake up, watch and pray. We are called to a life of solidarity with God, with his purposes. He desires our lives to be centred on him and on his mission to, in and for the world. We've slept enough, let's get up.

Prayer

God, who stands in solidarity with us, help us to stand in solidarity with you. Wipe the sleep from our eyes and make our minds sharp. Amen.