

As part of our Good Friday Service, we were asked to imagine ourselves in the story as the scriptures were read of the events of the day and the people involved. Where in the story would we fit in? Disciple, soldier, bystander, person yelling "crucify," a relative of Jesus, part of a mob, Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea? We don't have to imagine where in the story we are today as a follower of Christ - we are living our "chapter." How does it read?

At the Last Supper, Jesus took a cup, blessed it and a Passover ritual became a Christian symbol. The symbolism of the cup is used Biblically as a *"cup of suffering," "a cup of bitterness," "a cup that overflows," "a cup of salvation," "a cup of a new covenant," "a cup of service"* - in the chapter of your story, what does it mean to you? Perhaps different meanings at different times? We in our humaneness - sometimes we "measure up" and perhaps sometimes we don't. Perhaps we labor to find the cup that overflows or feel the cup of bitterness has been too full. We have a hard time finding the cup of service. 2 Timothy states: *"God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love."* In Acts 3 it says *"times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."* Paul's letter to the Romans states *"may the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another."*

All of us, *"brothers and sisters"* are writing our chapters together. We can't edit as we go or rewrite what we don't like. We can seek to *"have a spirit of power and love... to be refreshed from being in God's presence...be full of goodness and competent"* as a follower of Jesus...that we may be filled with joy and peace because we have learned to trust.

Blessings to you my brothers and sisters, Wink