

Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus

*"My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?"*



³³ And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
- Mark 15:33-34

THE CRY...

- **Betrayed**
- **Abandoned**
- **Falsely accused**
- **Whipped**
- **Mocked**
- **Humiliated**
- **Crucified**



The “Coincidence...”

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me,
from the words of my groaning?

- Psalm 22:1



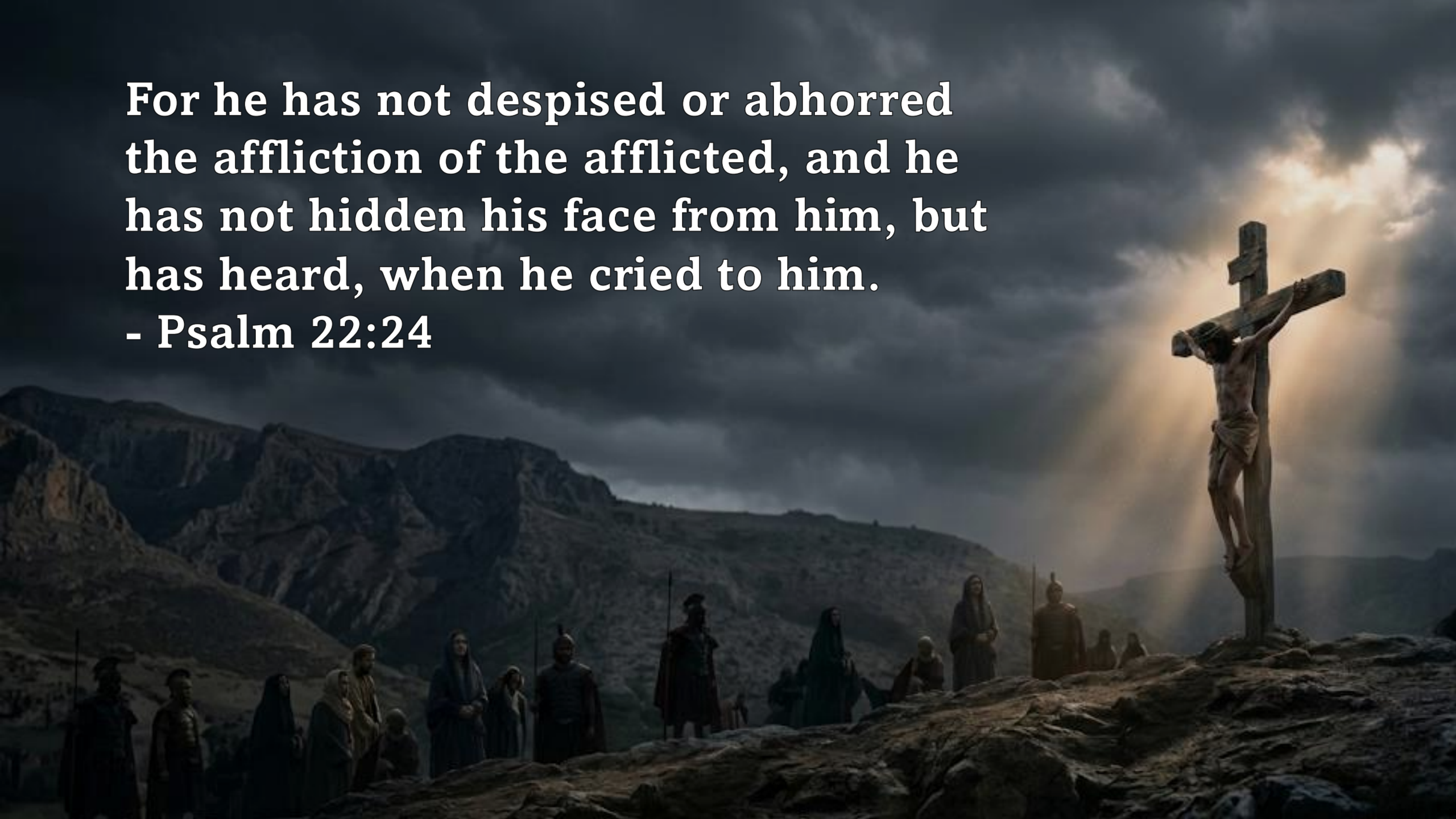
The “Coincidence...”

¹⁶For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet - ¹⁷I can count all my bones - they stare and gloat over me; ¹⁸they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

- Psalm 22:16-18



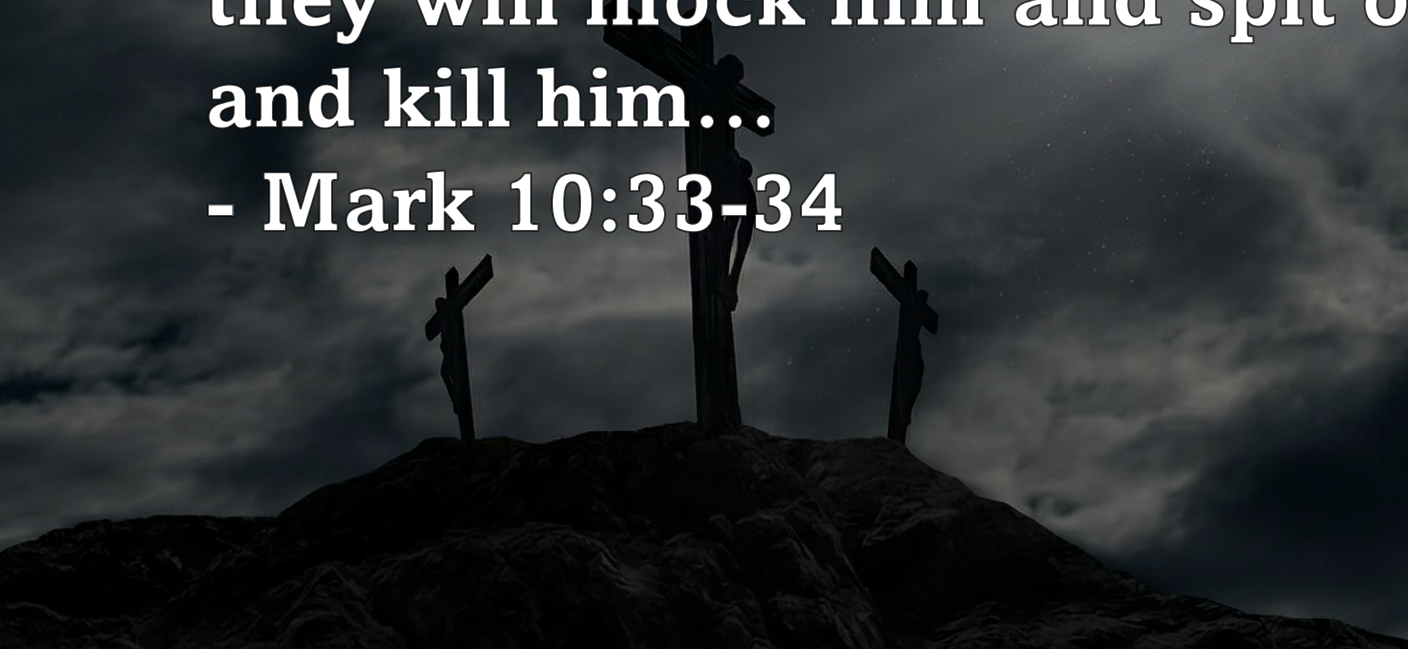
**For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted, and he
has not hidden his face from him, but
has heard, when he cried to him.
- Psalm 22:24**



The Choice...

³³ “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. ³⁴ And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him...

- Mark 10:33-34



The Choice...

So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself...”

- Mark 15:31



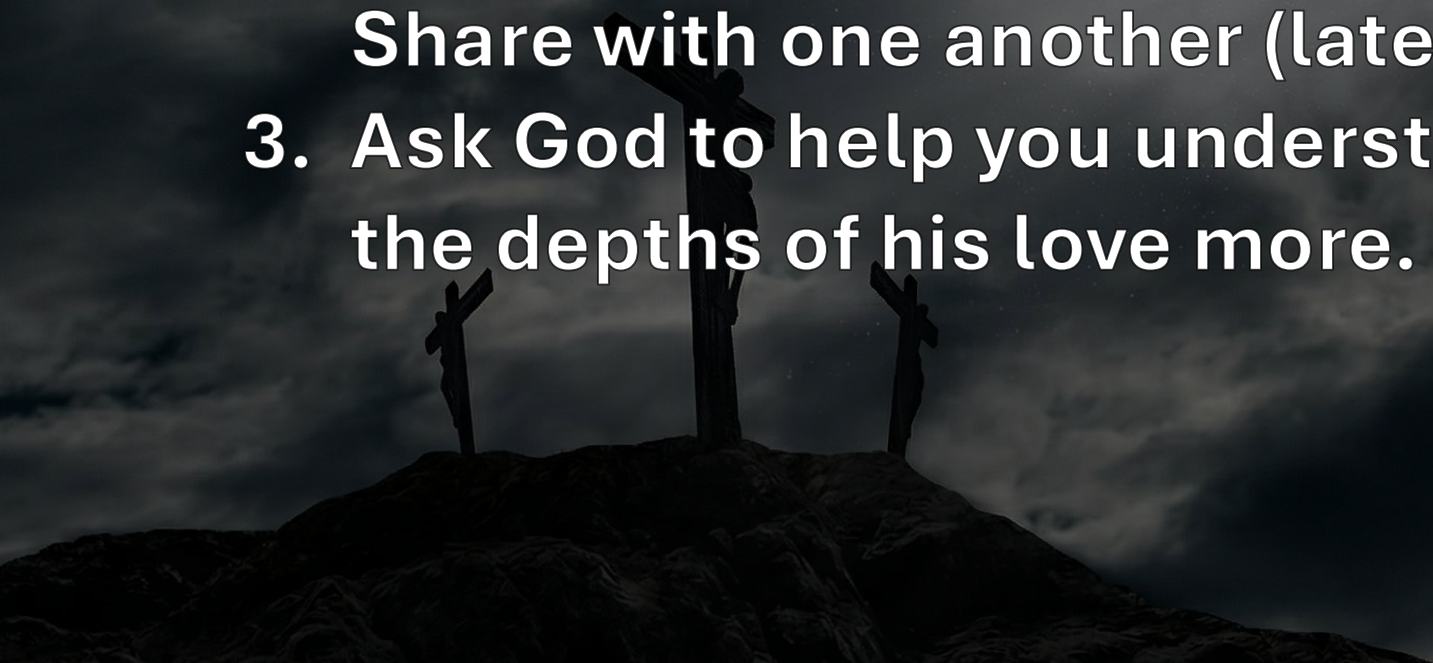
The Choice...

Jesus, through his actions, seemed to have done everything he needed to do to ensure that he would go to the cross. His was the choice to love, and to persist in love



We Reflect...

1. Remember what Jesus has done for us on the cross. Remember the price he paid and respond to him with humility and thanksgiving.
2. Recall other instances in your own life where you have seen and experienced God's love for you.
Share with one another (later)
3. Ask God to help you understand and experience the depths of his love more.



What Was Happening Above the Cross?

Luke 23:39-43



³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

The Two Criminals

Luke 23:39-43



The One Sinless Saviour

Luke 23:39-43



*For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—
but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Rom 5:7-8



“...but your iniquities
have made a separation
between you and your
God

Isa 59:2



The Lord has laid on
him the iniquity of us
all.

Isa 53:6



The Three Movements:

Luke 23:39-43



The Three Movements: The Rejecting Resistance

“Are you not the
Christ? Save
yourself and us!”

Luke 23:39b



The Three Movements: **The Repentant Remembrance**

“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Luke 23:42



The Three Movements: The Resounding Redemption

“Truly, I say to you,
today you will be
with me in paradise.”

Luke 23:43



Conclusion:

- One Rejected Christ
- One Turned to Christ
- Christ gave Himself for both

Luke 23:39-43



We Reflect

Which voice sounds familiar?

- The **voice of rejection** — resisting grace, hardening the heart, insisting on having God on our own terms?
- Or the **voice of repentance** — a voice of humility and honesty, quietly whispering, “Jesus... remember me,” trusting simply in His mercy?
- Or a deeper longing — to hear the **voice of Christ** say, “Today... you will be with me”?

but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

(John 19:25–27)

- Contrast
- Convention
- Community

Contrast

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(John 19:25–27)

Contrast

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.”

(John 19:23–24)

Peter said to him, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” **And they all said the same.**

(Mk 14:29–31)

Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” **And all the disciples said the same.**

Mt 26:33–35.

standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. (John 19:25)

3 women

- Jesus' mother
- His mother's sister (who was)
Mary the wife of Clopas
- Mary Magdalene

4 women

- Jesus' mother
- His mother's sister
- Mary the wife of Clopas
- Mary Magdalene

Convention

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. (John 19:26–27)

Convention

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Convention

And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (**and a sword will pierce through your own soul also**), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

(Lk 2:34–35)

Community

“Jesus uses the power of the cross to form new relationships, to heal wounds, to generate new communities just when all seems dust and ashes. The challenge to those who stand at the foot of the cross and ponder its meaning is to be open to “receive” into one’s “own” whatever or whoever God may give at that moment.

This nonviolent bringing together of new community is the final “task” for Jesus to perform on this side of death”. (Wes Howard-Brook)

Community

After this, Jesus, **knowing that all was now finished**, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.”

Jn 19:28.

Community

“For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.” (1 Cor 1:26 – 29)

Community

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (John 13:34 -35)

Community

“For the first time we can love people unconditionally. We have given up the right that they return our love. No longer do we feel that we have to be treated a certain way. We rejoice in their successes. We feel genuine sorrow in their failures. It is of little consequence that our plans are frustrated if their plans succeed.”

“...lay down the terrible burden of always needing to get our own way.” (Richard Foster)