

Roman Coin

Rubbing gently between finger and thumb,
the soil falls to the ground
revealing
a battered, misshapen
tarnished
coin.

Treasure trove
artefact
history
alive
in a tiny piece of bronze.

Gnarled and stained,
fingers clean away the dirt
until a face emerges.

Cold
proud
haughty
remote

The face of an emperor
the face of a god
the face of a conqueror

The face of one
who centuries before
sent thousands to die
sent thousands to kill
to steal my land
to buy my earth with blood.

Power
glory
in a metal disk
riches
wealth
stare out from the face.

Where is God?

Where is the baby of Bethlehem?

Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's
drive out the money changers
overturn tables

Render to God, what is God's

For the love of money is the root of all evil

Render to God, what is God's

But in the tarnished old coin
aged underground
is a beauty
a marvel
a story.

This is not the penny tossed uncaringly over a wall
this is a treasure
loved
valued
hidden
from prying eyes and forgotten

A story
untold
a history

A history of buying and selling
a history of spending and saving
a history of giving and receiving
a history of living and loving

It might have been this coin
the disciples used
to buy the bread
which Jesus broke and shared
when
on the night when the lust for power
overcame the love of life
he took bread
gave thanks
broke it
and gave it to them
gave
not sold
gave
what cost him
his very life

This is my body broken for you

In the same way after supper
he took wine
was it precious wine,
wine of rejoicing
wine of celebration
or the ordinary wine

of everyday drinking and eating?
Did they buy it
or make it?
Where did it come from?
He lifted the cup
and promised:
This is the cup of new life
new relationship
This is my blood poured out
This is my gift
my eternal gift
given without counting the cost
drink it, all of you
drink freely
and remember.

This is my blood gifted to you

We have received your gift
we have taken your life
send us out from this place
to give without counting the cost
to share with any who have need
to build your Shalom
here
now
throughout the world
and forever.

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