

Reflection for last Sunday

Readings Isaiah 50: 4-7; Hebrews 5: 7-9; Mark 14: 1-15, 47



Fr Michael says:

A Reflection for us as we stand with Jesus at the start of Holy Week

In death and judgment, man's naked reality is manifest.

Death is no mere superficial change, nor is judgment only an external reaction to man's actions during life.

At death and judgment the personal condition a man has chosen for himself – is completed and made final.

True, this final self-determination is achieved in dialogue with or against God, and would be impossible without God's free creation and gratuitous grace. Nor can we forget that freedom never totally determines any concrete life-situation.

Other determinants inevitably enter each individual decision.

None of this alters what is to the Christian a self-evident fact, that freedom enables man to determine himself irrevocably, to be for all eternity what he himself has chosen to make himself.

In his freedom, man is his own burden and responsibility.

Freedom is creative, and is a creature is man – in this own final disposition of himself.

Man is essentially a freedom-event, as established by God, and in his very nature, he is unfinished.

He does not live in some ethereal and pure essence, but freely determines his how everlasting nature and bears ultimate responsibility for it.

(Karl Rahner)

Where are we as we start Holy Week and are asked to "Take up our cross daily" by Jesus, as we journey with Jesus on His Way of the Cross – what is our real commitment?

Reflection for Passion Sunday of Lent B, 2015



Fr. Tom says: How can this be?

We begin with a triumphal entry; people shout their praises of Jesus as he enters Jerusalem as the long lost leader they had always hoped would return and lead them all to glory. Hosanna! Hosanna! they shout.

And, in no time at all, they are crying for his blood, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

How can people be so fickle or should I say be so callous? And yet they are. We see it happening in the news too often today. Will we ever learn?

This week let us live Palm Sunday and be among those who welcome Jesus with great joy singing his praises and waving our palms, although we are also made vividly aware of the journey that Jesus will make in the next few days. We need to be strengthened by the knowledge that Jesus is truly a King, a King of compassion and love, of forbearance and forgiveness. Jesus is a true lover who embraces all insult and mockery, cruelty and abuse, rejection and suffering – yes, a true lover, because he does this for us.

We can only begin to understand the value and significance of this whole experience in our hearts and in our souls if we journey closely with Jesus over the next few days. If we are truly his friends, we will be there with him at each moment, ourselves being hurt and suffering because of the way he is treated. We cannot call ourselves his friends if we are not there for him. The love we will experience from him will make us more sensitive to the needs of others, will give us the courage we need to stand up for justice and increase our desire to help those in need. It will deepen and strengthen the love we have for our families even those members of our family we find very hard to love. A love that will change the way we see ourselves and the world in which we live. But most of all it will bring us closer to God and God closer to us in everything we do.

Whenever we have faced difficult moments in our lives, we have always looked around for support and understanding; the difficulties are so much harder if we believe we are alone. We have the opportunity to show our solidarity with Jesus by making the holy week journey close to him; to show him not only that we do care, that we do love him, but also our deep gratitude for all that he has done for us, that his sacrifice was truly worthwhile. It is a journey that will reveal a different way of understanding the hardships and tragedies that life throws at us and reveal the power of our weaknesses. Let us be inspired by Simon who helped Jesus with his cross and was converted by it, by Veronica who reached out to ease Jesus’ suffering, by Mary, his mother, who held in her arms her only son, lifeless, and be transformed by the grief, the suffering, the love . . .

The death of the Lord our God should not be a cause of shame for us; rather, it should be our greatest hope, our greatest glory. In taking upon himself the death that he found in us, he has most faithfully promised to give us life in him, such as we cannot have of ourselves.

He loved us so much that, sinless himself, he suffered for us sinners the punishment we deserved for our sins. How then can he fail to give us the reward we deserve for our righteousness, for he is the source of righteousness? How can he, whose promises are true, fail to reward the saints when he bore the punishment of sinners, though without sin himself?

Brethren, let us then fearlessly acknowledge, and even openly proclaim, that Christ was crucified for us; let us confess it, not in fear but in joy, not in shame but in glory.

St Augustine of Hippo