

Reflection Tuesday of Holy Week 2022

Isaiah is very eloquent about the role of the Servant and that he will be the Light of the Nations, echoing the promise of Simeon to Mary about Jesus at the presentation. The Mission is clear but the **how** is not always so, although Isaiah is also eloquent about that too.

Two other figures take centre stage today: Judas and Peter. It is tempting to believe that Judas also fulfilled his mission to betray Jesus set in motion at the Last Supper but would God really have given this kind of mission to anyone let alone Judas? The same question equally applies to Peter: was his mission to betray his friendship to Jesus as today's Gospel suggests?

God does not play around with our lives. We make our choices freely. We seek God's help but we also refuse God's help.

Only after the event do we see how things may have unfolded differently or begin to understand the how and why things happened in the way they did. Hopefully, we also begin to see how God was present throughout. So, No! God did not give Judas the mission to betray Jesus, Judas chose it himself even if influenced by all the small choices of betrayal he had made earlier in his life!

The Betrayal Janet Martin 2009

The birds in the trees were silent,
the flowers closed their eyes,
the trees bent low in sorrow
as they heard their Master's cries.
The moon in the sky was darkened,
the wind had ceased to blow,
for there within the garden
all nature seemed to know.... and they seemed to cry,

Daily You walked in our splendour,
daily we hailed You as King!
Our Master, our Creator,
maker of everything,
Lord of all creation,
let nothing halt our song,
but now we bow in sorrow
for our Maker's hour is come - Yes, our Maker's hour is come.

The disciples lay a-sleeping,
subdued in slumbers bliss,
no silent tears or weeping
in this prelude to The Kiss.
Then lo, what breaks the silence?
What is that doleful beat?
The song of doom and violence shod upon their feet!

Then Jesus spoke, "Arise, arise,
behold, he is at hand!
The one who will betray me
before us now doth stand!"
Judas cried, "Hail Master!"
and kissed the Son of Man,
then Jesus turned to Judas,
and Jesus called him "Friend." and then He said:

"Daily I sat in your temple,
daily you heard my words,
and yet you bring an army
to betray the Lord of lords?
Daily you heard my teaching,
do you not know who I am?
And yet you bring your swords and knives
with which to slay a Lamb?
..... and yet you bring your swords and knives
to betray the Son of Man!"