

Palm Sunday A/2011

Palm Sunday reminds us of the truth of the tragedy of human life with its lot of contrasting events. Sometimes, people praise us without cease for our action and our bearing; but it does not take too long for the same people to say all the bad things of us. The crowd of people who were chanting for Jesus at his entrance in Jerusalem will be the same who will boo him at his passion. So, honor and dishonor, acceptance and rejection, are part of human tragedy.

Palm Sunday reminds us of how fragile it is to count on human praise and honor all the times. It shows us how human adulation has its limit; but the glory that comes from God has no limit. Palm Sunday reminds us, especially, that Jesus voluntarily accepted to suffer and die for our sake.

As Isaiah says, as a good servant of God, Jesus did not rebel against the will of the Father. In surrendering and submission, he gave his back to those who beat him and his cheek to those who plucked his beard. To those who spat on him, he did not hide his face.

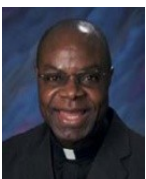
With the whole of his heart, he trusted in the Father and humbled himself like a slave and became obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross. For that reason, St Paul affirms, God will exalt him and put him above every name so that all tongues confess him as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

By accepting to die on the cross for our salvation, Jesus has given us a proof of his love. His cross is an act of supreme love that gives everything to the point of laying down his own life. As it can be attested in human experience, when someone deeply and sincerely loves, he/she gives all that he/she has and is. That is exactly what Jesus has done in accepting to die for us.

That is why the suffering of Jesus is a healing suffering that brings about salvation to the world. Since Jesus gives us in his passion an example of dedication and total love, anytime we, too, accept suffering for the sake of those we love, we repeat in our own body the passion of Jesus. However, we should never forget that Jesus was unjustly condemned to death. If that is the case, it means also that anytime we, too, make people suffer unjustly, we prolong the passion of Jesus.

The passion of Jesus challenges us to love totally and unreservedly. The passion of Jesus invites us to get rid of violence of all forms, especially when it is against children and innocents. The passion of Jesus invites us to forgive our enemies, as did Jesus on the cross. May God bless you as you suffer for the love you bear for your family, your children, your friends, etc! May you find in the passion of Jesus hope and consolation in your own suffering! God bless you all!

Isaiah 50, 4-7; Philippians 2, 6-11; Matthew 26- 27, 66



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