

## Good Friday C/2013

The readings of this Good Friday focus on the passion and death of Jesus. They show us that, like the prophets of the past, Jesus died in order to fulfill the mission received from the Father. Through his death on the cross, we have received reconciliation with God and forgiveness of sins.

The passion is a drama that enlightens the meaning of Jesus' life and the reason why he came into the world. In fact, Jesus was born in order to die on the cross for the salvation of the world.

Of course, there is a difference between dying by choice and dying because that is the normal course of a life. When death comes as a normal course of a life, it is inescapable and there is nothing else to do than to accept it. But, when someone dies by choice, it means that, though he would have avoided dying, he has decided to assume it for a supreme good that death can bring. That is what happened with the passion of Jesus.

The passion of Jesus is the suffering of love for mankind. It is a drama, but a drama of love. The passion and death of Jesus are the proof of his love for us and for the whole world. By his teaching and actions, Jesus has touched the lives of many, but he also made enemies. Jesus knew that his fate would not be different from that of the prophets who were persecuted in the past.

Those who felt challenged in their life could not tolerate his teaching and his action. They wanted him to die and to leave them alone with their ways. But Jesus did not fear for his life. He assumed all that with courage, faithfulness and obedience in order to fulfill the mission the Father had entrusted to him.

As Isaiah says, "Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth". And yet, "it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured... He was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed".

The passion can be approached only from within, when the soul comes to understand that there is no greater love than to give one's life for the beloved ones. Here, no word, no speech, no cry, no tears, can express the tragedy of Jesus' passion. Only a deep sigh of the heart and an interior silence can lead us to commune with Jesus in his suffering. Where the words lose their strength, there only the heart can speak, because only the heart knows the limits of human speech.

May the blood of Jesus cleanse us of our sins! May his pierced hands embrace us and touch all those who are sick in their body and in their soul so that they might be healed! May God bless you all!

**Isaiah 52: 13-53: 12; Hebrews 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9; John 18: 1-19: 42**



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