

Palm Sunday B/2018

The readings of this Palm Sunday bring us at the heart of the suffering of Jesus. They show us that Jesus' suffering was not in vain, but for the salvation of the world.

The first reading of the book of Isaiah recalls the song of the servant of the Lord. It shows that the servant of the Lord was trained in order to fit the mission God wanted him to fulfill. Not only has God opened his ears so that he might hear the cries of the needy, but he has prepared him in such a way that he might be able to speak to anyone in need. For that reason, he has not rebelled against God, even when his life was in danger. As he put his trust in God, He, in turn, would not let him down.

What is behind this text is the idea of redemptive suffering that serves to the enhancement of human life and the healing of mankind. Another idea is that even if the servant of God can be humiliated in his life, God will eventually lift him up. Therefore, as St Paul said in the second reading, Jesus who passed through the humiliation of rejection and suffering, God has exalted him and given him a name that is above everything that exists in the world.

All this gives meaning to the life of Jesus and clarifies the stakes of today's Gospel as it relates to his passion. In fact, there is a sharp contrast in today's Gospel between the entrance of Jesus in Jerusalem and the events of his passion.

The same crowd of those who were chanting for him at the entrance of Jerusalem will be among those who will reject him and wish him to die. That is why, though people were praising him, Jesus did not lose his heart. He knew that human glory is short-lived and ephemeral.

The only durable glory is that which comes from the Father. Such a glory cannot be acquired without the cross. Only the cross gives to human life its full meaning. And it is only after the cross that the resurrection is possible.

The only way that leads to glory is a total love that gives everything until the giving up of one's own life for others. In fact, love alone is able to endure sacrifices and sufferings for the beloved ones. The suffering that comes out of such a love is a healing suffering. That is why Jesus' passion is a passion of love for the salvation of the world.

The suffering of Christ teaches us to forgive as he did on the cross, especially where we have been unjustly hurt. Jesus invites us to open our heart and to accept to forgive. May you find peace and consolation in the passion of Jesus, especially when the love of your beloved ones brings you sacrifice and sufferings! May God bless you all!

Isaiah 50: 4-7; Philippians 2: 6-11; Mk 14: 1-15: 47

Homily Date: March 25, 2018

© 2018 – Fr Felicien I. Mbala, PhD, STD

Contact: www.mbala.org

Document Name: 20180325homily.pdf