

Good Friday A/2020

When we listen to the narrative of the passion of our Lord, we realize how much Jesus loved us. Only the one who loves is capable of giving everything he is and has for the beloved one. The love of Jesus for us was total, complete and without hesitation. It pushed him to give everything he could until his own life on the cross for us.

His mission was a difficult one. Our Lord fought against any resistance in him that would prevent him to obey the Father. In his agony, our Lord submitted totally to the will of the Father. His agony is one of the rare moments we see the intensity of the prayer of our Lord and his intimacy with the Father. Three times our Lord prayed to the Father: “My Father if this cup could pass away, but not my will....”

Those three times express the intensity of his prayer and the anxiety in which his soul was plunged at that specific moment. In the end he submitted himself to the will of the Father.

The submission to the will of the Father requires an unconditional obedience to him. The unconditional obedience of our Lord is not like that of a slave who obeys blindly his master, in a gesture of a blind loyalty, but without knowing the real motivation that pushes his master to ask him to execute such or such task.

The unconditional obedience of Jesus is that of a son who knows from within, by the motive of love, that his Father would not ask such a task if it were not necessary. The task might be difficult and tough, but love makes it easy. In such condition, obedience becomes a pleasure.

Spouses know something like that. Because they love, they can do anything in order to please the beloved. They can do even the impossible, because they love. Because they love, the sacrifice consented becomes pleasure. Not that the sacrifice is not painful, but it is a pain accepted because of love.

The passion of our Lord is a passion of love. Only love, but also faith, can make the impossible possible. We are saved through the passion of our Lord.

The Passion reminds that there is no life without sacrifice as well as there is no resurrection without suffering. As Jesus has given his life for us, let us give our life so that people around us and those who meet us may live. The Passion of our Lords invites to walk consciously and sternly in the footsteps of Jesus, by giving our lives so that others may live. Amen.

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



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