

Good Friday C2025

When we visit people who have been struck by a misfortune or a sudden tragedy, we have not too much to say or to tell them. We stay with them communing in silence to their pain and dolor. What brings us to silence is the seriousness of the moment and the intensity of the drama.

The suffering of our Lord brings us to that state of mind, where there is not too much to say than to stay silent in front of the mystery of his Passion and death. No word, no speech, can replace the vivid drama of the passion of our Lord as we heard it.

No cry, no tears poured out in compassion of the suffering of our Lord will express the tragedy of his passion. Perhaps only a deep sigh of the heart and an interior silence can lead us to commune with him in his suffering. Where words lose their strength, there only the heart can speak, because only the heart knows the limits of human speech.

The scene of the passion can be approached but from within, when the soul, touched by what our beloved savior accepted to endure for our salvation, comes to understand that there is no greater love than to give one's life for the beloved ones.

The passion and death of our Lord are the proof of his love for us and for the world. By his teaching and actions, our Lord had touched the lives of many, but he also made enemies. Our Lord certainly saw his violent death coming on the horizon. He knew that his fate would not be different from that of the prophets who came before him.

Pharisees and Scribes felt challenged in their way of believing in God. They could not tolerate his teaching and his action. They wanted him to die and to leave them alone. But, our Lord did not fear for his life. He assumed all with courage, faithfulness and obedience in order to fulfill the mission given him by the Father.

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 of our Lord is a decisive moments of his life that reveals who he is for us. He accepted suffering in his body and the death on the cross in order to save us. His death is an expression of his love for us, a self-gift and a self-immolation for our sake.

By so doing, our Lord becomes "the source of salvation for all who obey him". As we meditate on the passion of our Lord, let us not forget that he endured all that suffering for our sins. What a wonderful way to make amends than to repent of our sins and to receive God's grace through the sacrament of reconciliation. May the passion of our Lord bring us to repentance and the conversion of heart so that we come to the celebration of Easter purified and cleansed of our sins!

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



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