

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Monday, March 25, 2013

Faith in Laity Corner

Readings: Mk. 14:1, 15:47/Phil. 2:6-7



Holy Week- Palm Sunday

Some information thankfully God does not permit us to have, as humans. We don't know when we will be born and surely don't know when we are going to die. Our world demonstrates daily that with one gunshot or 18, a tornado, one local terrorist, a car accident, one train ride could mean our demise. There may be signs for each of us, but the exact hour or the time is never really known. How many of us have relatives whom the doctors gave a week, a day to live and they outlived their doctors?

As we begin this most solemn season for Catholics in Holy Week, one cannot help but reflect on the events we recapture some 2000 years ago. Jesus is entering the city of Jerusalem; riding on the tide of popularity. He had just raised Lazarus from the dead in Bethany. Jesus was the *super-hero (Black Panther)* of the hour! One cannot help but wonder, how did Jesus internalize all that was happening? Remember unlike us, '*mere mortals*' Jesus was God and knew everything. He knew what was going to happen to Him. Yet,

"He humbled himself,

becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross." (Phil. 2:8)

Jesus accepted a level of suffering willingly for our sake. This Sunday will be the joyful entry into Jerusalem most poignant; knowing this same crowd would later, jump in to shout,

'Crucify him, Crucify him' (Mk. 15:13)

People who were so enthusiastic about His arrival, and all He had done for them; past miracles would quickly be forgotten. So much for the stability and loyalty of the crowd!

Just as the masses of people surrounded Jesus ‘*rolling out the red carpet*’ of palm branches, He knew deep down, that most of them were being carried away by sensationalism,

crowd dynamics and were like the seeds that fell along the wayside, and even His close associates were like the seeds cast on stony ground; when things got too serious- their faith grew weak and fell away.

Jesus asked His followers to pray, pray, pray! He established the example for us that we have to pray and be ready for the test to survive. Jesus saw and knew that the crowd was not praying, not even His Apostles understood, how much they needed to pray. In our time today, how much more in our 21st century we need to pray, and pray and pray for our children, our neighbors’ children, our students, our communities, our society, our world. Jesus said,

“Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test.” (Mk. 14:38)

A test for sure we all have to take! If we know that a test is coming; Jesus demonstrated the best *test-taking* strategy is constant prayer. If Jesus, who knew the future, made prayer His daily life journey with the Father; then we who have not been given that knowledge need to pray even harder that when our test comes, we can say like Jesus.

“Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will.” (Mk. 14:32)

Make this Holy Week a focus for prayer remember our young people marching for their lives, protesting the murder of unarmed African Americans, for human slavery, physical and sexual abuse, drug addicts, for the working poor, for our babies who live in fear and our elderly who live with abuse and loneliness. We have to pray, pray, pray.

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday’s reading written by

Brenda Chee Wah, *a parishioner of Christ Our Hope Catholic Church*

Lithonia, Georgia.

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