

Passion (Palm) Sunday (ABC)

Today all Catholics throughout the world turn their hearts and minds once again to the **suffering and death of Jesus Christ**.

That suffering won for all mankind the **definitive victory over sin and hopelessness** - a victory we declare and celebrate with these **palm branches**, the ancient world's symbol of triumph.

But let's **dig deeper** into this mystery of our salvation.

God is all-powerful. He could have chosen to save us from sin in many other ways. Why did he choose to do it by **suffering**? What is the **meaning** of the Passion?

- The Passion tells us with perfect clarity the message we **most need to hear**.
- The Passion of Our Lord says to us: God is faithful; **you can trust him**.

Trusting God is the **most important** thing for us, but it's also the **hardest**, because our trust has been **violated**.

- We have all been **wounded** because people we trusted let us down, in little things and big things.
- As a result, we have all **built up walls around our hearts**, to protect ourselves from being let down again.
- But those walls also keep out God. God wants to heal the wounds that are so deep within our hearts. He wants us to help others to break down the wounds they have deeply in theirs. God wants to renew lives.

God knows that unless we **let him into our hearts**, we can **never** experience the **happiness** we long for.

So, he came up with a way to **win back our trust**: The Passion of Christ.

The Passion is God saying to us: "No matter what you do, **I will keep on loving you**. I will never let you down."

- If we reject him, scourge him, crown him with thorns, betray him, even if we crucify him, he continues to love us: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

- God's love and faithfulness doesn't depend on us being **perfect**, and it doesn't depend on his **whims**. He will never take it back. We can **trust** him - **completely**.
- That's the message of the Passion. And it's the message that each of us, wounded and sinful as we are, **most needs** to hear. **Other people need to hear that word as well**. We should **not be afraid** to speak of Christ and the meaning of his Passion. We are his **messengers**. He wants to reach out to others through us. Who needs to hear the message? Maybe we can think of someone right away. Maybe we just need to be ready and willing, so that the Holy Spirit can work through us

We have to learn to **trust God more and more** in order to be **transformed** by him into the kind of person we know we should be.

Man, tempted by the devil, let his trust in his Creator die in his heart and, abusing his freedom, disobeyed God's command. This is what man's first sin consisted of. All subsequent sin would be disobedience toward God and lack of trust in his goodness."

In these most uncertain times, the prayer of St. Augustine should ring in our ears:

Father, I am seeking: I am hesitant and uncertain, but will you, O God, watch over each step of mine and guide me."

And our hearts should respond in the words:

Jesus, I trust in you!