

Passion Sunday Year A. 2nd April 2023. Salvation via Humility

Today we celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and his Passion. Today marks the end of the Lenten week. It is a week of spiritual preparation for Easter so that we may truly share in the resurrection of Jesus. It is another opportunity to tell Jesus we are sorry of our sins, like one of the criminals who was crucified along side with Jesus. At the last hour he was privilege to gain heaven when he acknowledged his sins before Jesus. And Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell, today you will be with me in paradise" Luke 23:43. The entire journey of the Lord's passion was to give eternal life to the world, and this will later be achieved through sacrifice, obedience and humility. We see this clearly in the three readings the first reading presented Jesus as both obedient and suffering servant, in obedience to God, he gave his back to those who beat him, his cheeks to those who plucked his beard; he never covers his face to those who spit at him, he trusted in God, knowing he shall not be put to shame. In the second reading, he empties himself took the form of a slave and became man; most importantly he humbled himself became obedient to the death on the cross. For this reason, God exalted him above all names.

In the gospel reading outside the church, Matthew told us that on his entry to Jerusalem, he rides on Ass: this symbolizes humility that Jesus expects from his followers. In our world today, the crises and every conflict we are facing in families, community and countries are as the result of lack of humility, everyone wants to rule the world therefore, we neglect to appreciate the beautiful gifts that we have, instead we go about trying to conquer or claim worldly power at the detriment of caring and loving those in need. Pride always put us first before everyone else, but humility make us to consider first the interest of others. If we are humble, the world will become a better place for everyone to live. St. Paul told us though he was in the form of God did not regard equality with God something to be grasped: to be grasped means to learn, to seize opportunity. Beloved in Christ let us consider humbling ourselves like Jesus to bring peace, satisfaction and holiness in our families, community and the world at large. St. Augustine said, humility is not only a significant virtue; it is the indispensable foundation of human greatness. Humility is not something we should see or admire from a far, but something we should imitate. We can gain heaven without other virtues, but we cannot without humility. See how his humility culminated on the cross, let us also be humble even at the expense of our happiness. The true happiness can only be obtained in the life of humility. Like Jesus we are not exempted from rejection, mockery, betrayal, drinking from the cup of suffering. May Jesus who humbly himself died on the cross give us the ability be humble and not to reject those who hate us, nor cover our faces against those who spit at us or speak ill of us.

Peace,

Fr. Jingbe Simon