

PALM SUNDAY (A&B)

YOUR ATTITUDE SHOULD BE LIKE THAT OF CHRIST

Each and every one here has the name of Christ, because we are called Christians, people who live and behave like Him, (Acts 13:26). But is our attitude like that of Christ?

Today we commemorate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, a journey of no return. His fate and whatever was going to happen to Him was foretold by the prophets, especially Isaiah, as we heard in the first reading. The Messiah would be maltreated, but He would not rebel.

The Passion narrative we just heard is a confirmation of what was prophesied. The betrayer was from His core group. He used something good for evil means - a kiss. The rest paid lip service and deserted Him, and the leader denied Him three times. The people preferred a criminal to an innocent man. He was beaten and spat upon.

He had the last supper in somebody's house. He used someone's donkey. He became poor so that many people would be rich. He was silent when He could have defended Himself.

We are singing hosanna today; are we going to shout crucify Him on Friday? If the name we have put on ourselves would be meaningful then our attitude should be like that of the One whose name is prefixed to ours. He was obedient, humble, and selfless. He accepted to die a shameful death, death on the cross.

What is the distance between me and Jesus as He journeys to Jerusalem? What kind of noise am I making? Am I acknowledging His kingship or treating Him as a traitor? Am I loving as He loved, and still

loves everyone? Am I obedient to His word as He was obedient to His Father? Am I trying to keep myself pure as He is pure? Am I prepared to serve others without counting the cost involved as He did?

It is difficult for many of us to imitate Christ because we easily give in to temptations because we do not pray as we ought. He told His disciples, "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the Spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak". Faced with great temptation and anguish, He prayed three times. How many of us do that? We only deceive ourselves with the words "the flesh is weak". We forget about what the Spirit can do. Am I ready to follow Him today and always to death, or I am going to leave Him at a point and turn back. He said to the would-be disciple, "Anyone who starts to plow and then keeps looking back is of no use for the Kingdom of God", (Lk. 9:62).

"Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way He took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in His mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when He was tortured He made no threats but He put His trust in the righteous Judge. He was bearing our faults in His own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through His wounds you have been healed" (1Pet. 2:21-24).