

PALM SUNDAY (C)

CAN I FOLLOW JESUS TO THE END?

April 10, 2022

Jesus once told His disciples: "You will be universally hated on account of my name; but anyone who stands firm to the end will be saved" (Mk. 13:13). We know that when He started His ministry, many people followed Him for various reasons; some were inspired by His message about salvation; others because of healing experiences, and still others because of food.

Today, we are commemorating His final journey to Jerusalem; a journey that led to His passion and death. He knew what would happen, yet He went. He was willing to die to save the world. He started sacrificing Himself on the night before He died, by offering Himself as food and drink. We heard that many people accompanied Him and hailed Him.

Why did they leave Him when arrested? Nobody wanted to suffer or die for being associated with Him. Everything He did was forgotten. Everybody kept his distance. He became an outcast. He submitted Himself to His accusers. He was silent when He could have spoken to defend Himself. He could have fought to conquer His enemies, but He told His disciples to stop using the sword. In all, it was His desire to submit Himself to the Father's will.

In the midst of the rejection and suffering, He continued to do good. He restored the ear cut by one of the apostles, and brought reconciliation between Pilate and Herod, and the thief was promised eternal life.

Today, He tells me that Satan is real, and temptation is imminent so I should pray always. I am to submit my will to God's will; to be a servant offering myself to others; to be silent at certain times, and truth should always be my guiding principle.

How far have I walked with Jesus? What are the good things I have received from Him? What is the interval between me and Him as I follow Him? What is the problem that is keeping me far away from Him? Is it earthly treasure I seek, like Judas, or pleasure and comfort, like Simon near the fire? Or because of problems in life, I doubt His power and divinity like the other thief

who jeered at Him? St. Paul encourages me to persevere and to get closer with his message to Timothy: "Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David – that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardships, even to the point of being chained like a criminal...The saying is sure: If we have died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He will also deny us; if we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself (c/f 2Tim.2:8-13).

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Why did they leave Him when arrested? Nobody wanted to suffer or die for being associated with Him. Everything He did was forgotten. Everybody kept his distance. He became an outcast. He submitted Himself to His accusers. He was silent when He could have spoken to defend Himself. He could have fought to conquer His enemies, but He told His disciples to stop using the sword. In all, it was His desire to submit Himself to the Father’s will.

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Today, we are commemorating His final journey to Jerusalem; a journey that led to His passion and death. He knew what would happen, yet He went. He was willing to die to save the world. He started sacrificing Himself on the night before He died, by offering Himself as food and drink. We heard that many people accompanied Him and hailed Him.

Why did they leave Him when arrested? Nobody wanted to suffer or die for being associated with Him. Everything He did was forgotten. Everybody kept his distance. He became an outcast. He submitted Himself to His accusers. He was silent when He could have spoken to defend Himself. He could have fought to conquer His enemies, but He told His disciples to stop using the sword. In all, it was His desire to submit Himself to the Father's will.

In the midst of the rejection and suffering, He continued to do good. He restored the ear cut by one of the apostles, and brought reconciliation between Pilate and Herod, and the thief was promised eternal life.

Today, He tells me that Satan is real, and temptation is imminent so I should pray always. I am to submit my will to God's will; to be a servant offering myself to others; to be silent at certain times, and truth should always be my guiding principle.

How far have I walked with Jesus? What are the good things I have received from Him? What is the interval between me and Him as I follow Him? What is the problem that is keeping me far away from Him? Is it earthly treasure I seek, like Judas, or pleasure and comfort, like Simon near the fire? Or because of problems in life, I doubt His power and divinity like the other thief

who jeered at Him? St. Paul encourages me to persevere and to get closer with his message to Timothy: "Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David – that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardships, even to the point of being chained like a criminal...The saying is sure: If we have died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He will also deny us; if we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself (c/f 2Tim.2:8-13).

PALM SUNDAY (C)

CAN I FOLLOW JESUS TO THE END?

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