

Palm Sunday B 2021 SML
MK 14:1-15:47

As Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday, there were tears in Jesus' eyes, not because of the Crucifixion which awaited Him, but tears of disappointment for those who missed it . . .

It was the month of Nisan. The Book of Exodus ordered that in this month the Paschal Lamb was to be selected, and four days later was to be taken to the Temple, to the place where it was to be sacrificed. On Palm Sunday, the Lamb of God was chosen by popular acclaim in Jerusalem. And four days later, on Good Friday he was taken to Calvary, to the place where He was to be sacrificed.

Yet on Palm Sunday, Our Blessed Lord was certainly out of character, for up until now Jesus stayed out of the limelight.

At Caesarea Philippi, after Peter confessed that Jesus is the Messiah, the son of the living God, Jesus strictly ordered His disciples to tell no one He was the Messiah.

When Jesus raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead, He gave them strict orders to let no one hear about it.

After revealing the glory of his Divinity in the Transfiguration, He enjoined them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

When His relatives asked Him to go to Jerusalem and publicly astound the festival with miracles, Jesus went to the festival,

not openly, as it were, but in secret. JN 7:10

As Jesus knew the Sanhedrin was trying to kill Him, He no longer walked about in public among the Jews, but left for the region near the desert.

That Jesus was moving around in secret and not publicly, is the reason why the crucifix and the statues are covered for the last two weeks of Lent.

But the entrance into Jerusalem was so public and so festive, that the Pharisees said, "All the world has gone after Him." The question arises, "Why the considerable difference in character?" For so long Jesus dampened all the enthusiasm other had for Him, and now He kindled it. Why is that?

Because His hour had come. He knew that by acknowledging their claims, there were only two courses of action for the people:

1. either they openly confess Him as Messiah as did Peter,
2. or crucify Him;
1. either He was their king,
2. or they would have no king but Caesar.

As Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday, there were tears in His eyes, tears of disappointment, because He had the foreknowledge that they would choose Caesar as their king and not Him. There were tears of disappointment for

those who missed it . . .

Jesus had foreknowledge as evidenced by the instructions Our Blessed Lord gave to His disciples prior to His entrance into Jerusalem:

Go into the village straight opposite you, and immediately you will find an ass tethered, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them here to me. And if anyone should say anything to you, reply, "The master has need of them." And they found it just as he had told them.

In making the preparations for the Last Supper, Jesus had foreknowledge, as evidenced by the instructions He gave His disciples:

Go into the city and a man carrying a watering jar will meet you; follow him, and whatever house he enters, say, "The Teacher says, 'The hour has come. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'z" And they found it as He had told them.

The entry into Jerusalem was called triumphant; but Jesus knew well:

- ✓ "Hosannas" would change to "Crucify,"
- ✓ and palms would be turned into spears.
- ✓ Amid the shouts of the multitude,
- ✓ He could hear the whispers of Judas and the angry voices before Pilate's palace.

- ✓ The throne to which He was hailed was a Cross, and His real coronation would be a Crucifixion.
- ✓ Garments aplenty beneath His feet today, but on Friday He would be denied His own.
- ✓ They welcomed Him as their king, but this King knew the welcome which awaited Him was Calvary.

Tears of disappointment for those who He came to save, and who in turn, would have none of Him.

1. There He was, riding a donkey, the people hailing Him as king, and they missed it.
2. There He was, sleeves rolled up, sporting nothing but human flesh, and they missed it.
3. There He was, in the dirt with the poor and needy, and they missed it.
4. There He was, on fire with the Spirit of God:
 - ✓ opening the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf,
 - ✓ lifting the dead from their graves,
 - ✓ begging them to turn from their petty displays and thirst for kingdom righteousness, and praise that comes from men rather than God, and they missed it.

They studied the Scriptures like no one else. They knew the messianic prophecies of old like no one else. They could quote all of it backward and forward, inside out and upside down. They lived it and breathed it and begged Yahweh for it every day of their lives

and they still missed it.

Tears of disappointment for those who opted for stubborn pride, despite the obvious, and missed it; tears of disappointment for everyone who has missed it ever since, and those who miss it and keep right on missing it, even to this very day, not because they know the Scriptures so well, but because they don't know the Scriptures at all, they don't know the story, they don't even care to know the story.

And why is that? Because the modern world has definitely lost God, and abandoned the spiritual goal of human life.

- ✓ The modern world retains His Name from time to time, but does not model its life upon His laws.
- ✓ The modern world has lost its capacity to dwell on the spiritual and identifies reliance on God as impractical.
- ✓ The modern world gets into a mess of its own selfishness, and then writes a drama ridiculing the idea of God who could make such a world, quite forgetful that God wrote a masterpiece and gave it to us to act freely, and we freely choose to botch it up.
- ✓ The modern world has set its own house on fire, craws to the roof to escape, and then tumbles down amid its ruins, and then blames God for not putting out the fire.

This analogy can be applied to so many of the current events of the day:

- ✓ the pandemic,
- ✓ the crisis at the border,
- ✓ cancel culture,
- ✓ rewriting Eternal Law and Natural Law as if they never existed,
- ✓ another mass shooting this past week.
- ✓ the list goes on.

As Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem that first Palm Sunday, there were tears in Jesus' eyes, not because of the Crucifixion which awaited Him, but tears of disappointment for those who missed it . . .