

## Reflection on the Passion of Our Lord – Palm Sunday (A)

Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalm 22

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

We find ourselves on Palm Sunday with no Mass and no palms, and we are not even allowed to stop by to pick them up! AND, there is no Knights of Columbus Easter egg hunt where our “sweet” children run around and tackle each other for eggs with candy in them (being sarcastic). AND, we are basically stuck at home not allowed to venture out except for walking and going to the store! What is the best way to handle this time we are in?

As always, an excellent way to handle anything is to turn to Jesus to see what he did. When we read through the Passion by St. Matthew today one word that popped into my mind was **patience**, incredible **patience**! The abandonment in the Garden, the betrayal by Judas and St. Peter, the questioning by Pilot, the scourging by the Romans, the mocking and crowning of thorns by the soldiers, the nailing to the Cross, and the hanging on the Cross are all brutal acts that were done to Jesus. We know about them and we are moved with sorrow when we hear about them, but what about the waiting in between each of those horrible acts. They say the waiting for something bad to happen can be worse than the actual act itself. In Jesus’ case I’m not sure this is so, but he still had to wait, and it must have been extremely torturous. All of this took incredible **patience** by Jesus.

The definition of **patience** according to Siri is the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble or suffering without getting angry or upset. The definition of impatience according to Siri is the tendency to be irritable or restless. Jesus is definitely enduring through the Passion with great **patience**.

So, what does this mean for us? In short, be **patient!** But why? Well, there are two ways to handle this situation we are in:

- 1) Be impatient, which causes poor timing, hurt feelings, poor judgement (our time verses God's time) and in the end we cause a train wreck! (see last two homilies)
- 2) **Be patient**, which causes good timing, lasting friendships, good judgement (God's time verses our time) and in the end, we cross the train tracks safely! (see last two homilies). Not to mention, **patience** is one of the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit!

Let us ask for God's grace for **patience** as we pray through this Holy Week. It will be an extraordinary Holy Week in many ways! Through **patience**, let us not put our negative spin on what should be. Hopefully, with **patience** we won't miss what God will be telling us this week. Instead of thinking what could have been or what should be, help us Lord to just **be**, and **be with you, Lord!** It's all in God's time. As we wait **patiently** in front of the "railroad gate", know that we will see each other on the other side of the tracks soon.

Also, let us continue to pray for those infected with this virus and all those who are affected indirectly – especially our healthcare workers, cleaners, and all those who are considered "necessary" workers. May God protect you and bless you as you serve us. Amen.

God bless,  
Fr. Mark Speitel