

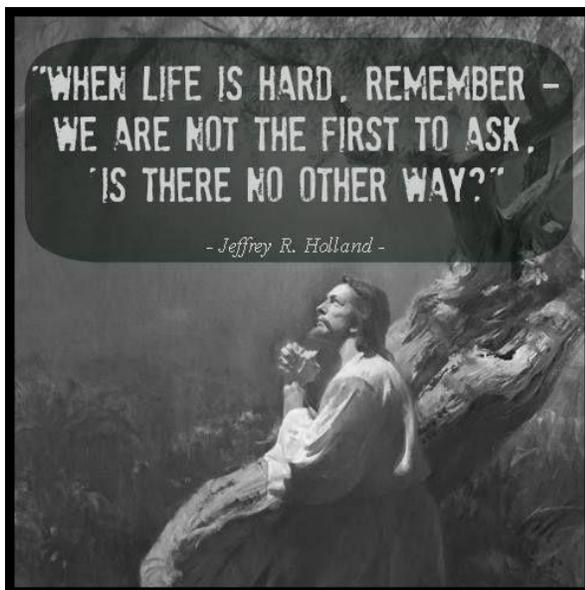
April 05 2020; Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

<http://uscgb.org/bible/readings/040520.cfm>

“Thy Will Be Done”

Jesus had a threefold mission as Priest, Prophet, and King. On this Palm Sunday, our first reading recalls Jesus' welcome to Jerusalem: *“the whole city was shaken”* as the crowds cried out, *“Hosanna to the Son of David... This is Jesus the prophet”* -- and perhaps even our future king..! But Jesus knew He would very soon, as both Priest and Victim, be offering himself on the altar of the Cross as the unblemished Sacrificial Lamb in atonement for our sins.

There are so many things to learn from Christ and to try to emulate, but I'd like to focus today on His profound Humility, His unflinching Obedience to the will of the Father. From our second reading, *“...though he was in the form of God... he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave... he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”* Jesus knew full well the excruciating nature of the cross; He had almost certainly witnessed the torturous execution over the years. Thus, very understandably, in the Garden of Gethsemane He prayed, *“My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me...”* But then, in the very next breath... *“Yet, not as I will, but as you will.”*



It is out of Humility that we seek to align our own will with God's will; from that, Obedience naturally follows. Is it easy? Nope! Hence, “Agony in the Garden.” The stubborn inclination toward our own will is called Pride and when we embrace that, the ugly fruit of disobedience soon follows.

Sometimes we don't fully understand God's will, which makes things that much harder for us. God doesn't always explain to us exactly Why His will is what it is. Thus, oftentimes, blind obedience is expected of us. If everything were perfectly explained to our personal understanding before we agreed to follow, where is the Faith in that? Where's the Humility in that – to follow only when I agree? Did you ever wonder why Jesus had to die on the Cross?

Could He not have been beheaded and still be our Sacrificial Lamb? So why the profound cruelty of the Cross? Why was that God's will? We can ponder, but may never know for sure this side of Heaven.

Today we may question, “Why the pandemic? What good is this turmoil and uncertainty? Why no Mass!?” We may never know... So we pray for and search for a cure, for healing, for a return to the “source & summit” of our faith. But then, let us follow the example of our Saviour and pray in the very next breath, *“Yet, not my will but Thy will be done,”* trusting, knowing The Good Shepherd will answer in the right way in the right time. With that Trust, with that Faith, with that Humility and Obedience, comes great Peace – the Peace of Christ. May the Peace of Christ be with you always!

Peace,

Dcn Ron