

## April 13 2020; Monday in the Octave of Easter

<http://uscgb.org/bible/readings/041320.cfm>

### “Mighty Fine Lemonade”

With the great Evil of the Crucifixion complete, the chief priests thought for certain they had rid themselves of Jesus. We can only imagine their wide-eyed dismay when word reached them that the Tomb was empty and the word was quickly spreading: Christ had Risen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day just as He said He would!

From Christ’s Agony in the Garden (“...Thy will be done”) to His last utterance on the Cross (“Father, into Your Hands I commend My Spirit”) the entirety of His Passion suffering was given over to God. What a lesson for us! When handed over to God, He can take the greatest evils and turn them into the greatest



good. As I’m fond of saying, “We do a pretty good job making lemons out of our lives; but if we turn them over to God, He can make some mighty fine lemonade!”

But the chief priests and elders were by no means swayed by the Empty Tomb. Instead of recognizing their mistakes, instead of repenting, instead of turning to God... these “men of God” turned inward as they had done for so long... How do we save face? How do we minimize the damage? How do we maintain control? And soon the fruits of turning inward vice to God were born: more scheming and manipulation... How sad for them. So ingrained was their blindness from Pride, they could not see the Glorious Light right in front of them. So they go on doing and saying whatever necessary to convince themselves and others they have done nothing wrong and, in fact, should probably be commended for their handling of such a difficult situation...

When was the last time you admitted to others that you were wrong and were sorry and that you’d like to make amends, to reconcile a relationship? Many times we can rather easily admit mistakes to ourselves and to God; but oftentimes that extra step of admitting it to others and seeking reconciliation within the Body of Christ is much more difficult, for some unfathomable. Why? Because of Pride, a great reluctance to show “weakness,” a great desire to maintain our carefully polished “image” or perhaps some “pious” notion that we’ll happily reconcile when the other person comes crawling back to me... And in these ways we mimic the chief priests of old...

Christ is Risen, alleluia! In the end: Love and Humility always win; Evil and Pride always lose! Which will you choose? May we learn to let go of the lemons of self-righteousness that sour life and turn them over to God, who stands ready to make something good of them!

Peace,

Dcn Ron