

2021 April 02

GOOD FRIDAY. Celebration of the Passion of the Lord.

Reading:

First: Isaiah 52.13-53-12 "Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain." (10)

The Psalm: 31 "I have become like a broken vessel." (12b)

Second: Hebrews 4. 14-16' 5.7-9 "Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered." (8)

The Gospel: John 18.1-19.42 "Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." (37e)

Obedience through suffering

"Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Jesus said this to Pilot at the time of his trial. Was there a single one among those gathered on that evening at the courtyard and the judgment seat of Pilot who really listened to truth? Did anyone care for Truth? Hardly any! The truth of that evening's happenings was that an innocent human being was being tried and condemned to death. Pilot the judge knew it, the crowd knew it, and even the accusers themselves knew that they were bringing in a false accusation on an innocent person. They did know that it was their jealousy, their greed and their craze for power that prompted them to crucify this innocent Son of Man. They too did not care for truth.

Those who had the vision to foresee this brutal event saw it as the '*Lord crushing him with pain.*' (Isaiah 53.10) Those who have been reflecting on the event ever after also think that the 'punishment' on him was brutal. We stand among them. Jesus was not the first in the story of humanity, in human history, to shed innocent blood. He will not be the last either. Shedding of innocent blood in humanity began with the story of Abel, the son of Adam, the first man on earth. It will continue to the end of time. In that process the justice system of the world will be more or less the same arena as it was in the trial of Jesus. You and I, and every human on earth, will be somewhere, somehow, some time, involved, participating, enduring, witnessing, suffering or dying in the process.

In that trial at Jerusalem it was the Supreme Judge of the world that was being tried and unjustly murdered. Through his death he proved with certainty that truth cannot die, truth will have the final victory, and truth alone will survive. The proof of it was the resurrection of this innocent Son of Man.

The day he was crucified we call, the world calls, '*Good Friday*'. This was, is, and will be the Good Friday. When this innocent Son of Man, the supreme Judge of the world, sits in his judgment seat, every human being should have the confidence of a fair trial. In his lifetime he had clarified that the norm with which he will make the judgment will be mercy. In order to open and make visible this floodgate of mercy the Father allowed his Son to be unjustly tried and killed. Hence Jesus, brutally crucified on the Cross, is the hope of all humanity for salvation and justice. He is and will be the final answer for the 'unjust' justice system of humanity! He is the only Redeemer of the world. We look for the redemption he alone can provide.

Fr. George

(The readings of the day are given at the beginning. The numbers in parentheses refer to the quotes from them. Good to go through the readings beforehand to properly understand the Reflections)

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