

Daily Mass Homily
7 April 2020
Tuesday of Holy Week

“Do not leave me to the will of my foes, O Lord, for false witnesses rise up against me and they breathe out violence?”

Reading 1: Isaiah 49:1-6 (*second oracle of the Servant of the Lord*)

Psalm 71: **“I will sing of your salvation.”**

Gospel: John 13: 21-33, 36-38

Homily for Monday of Holy Week

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

One thing that I find interesting during these days of Holy Week is the sentiment regarding Judas Iscariot and what he did. We know of course that he is the one who

betrays Jesus. He turned against his friend and brother and this turning ultimately led to Jesus' death on the cross. Now, what Judas did was something that had to be done. Maybe not necessarily by him, but someone had to be the one to turn on Jesus so that he would be arrested.

Today in the gospel reading from John we hear Jesus tell the twelve that one of them is going to betray him. One of the twelve was going to be the one to turn Jesus in to the guard. Now, all the disciples there were surprised at what Jesus was telling them and they were all trying to figure out which one that it was going to be. Peter even went as far as to say to the Lord, that it is not going to be him. He swore that he would lay down his life for the Lord and never

betray him. Well, we know that before the cock crowed three times, that Peter did in fact deny Jesus three times and this denial is also a betrayal.

We also say the same thing. We make a judgment against Judas and say how could he turn on his friend. How could he betray Jesus like he did? I would never betray Jesus. I would never deny Jesus. But we have to be careful when we say that because we do deny Jesus all the time. Look at the opportunities that we have each and every day to encounter him and minister to our brothers and sisters in his name and we fail to respond. We deny Jesus when given the opportunity to witness to others as to the great things that Jesus has done in your life. We betray Jesus and what he has given to us, his own life, whenever we sin. We are not that far removed from the action of Judas Iscariot as we may want to believe.

Let us take some time in these final hours of Lent to open our hearts to the ways that we have denied Jesus and betrayed Jesus in our own lives and ask for the courage to repent and to change so that we can come to Easter joy with our hearts made pure.