

Palm Sunday C/2013

The Gospel of this Palm Sunday conveys an important message for us, namely that Jesus Christ suffered and died for our sake. It tells that Jesus voluntarily sacrificed his life on the cross so that from his suffering we may live eternally in the presence of God.

The main motivation that guided Jesus to give up his life on the cross is love. In fact, when someone deeply loves, one can accept sacrifice, deprivation and suffering for the sake of the beloved ones. This happens very often in our families with our children or our spouses. For instance, we sacrifice vacations and some leisure in order to save money for the college of our sons or daughters. Sometimes people delay an important project of buying a new car or a big house, because they want to save money for the surgery of a spouse.

That type of sacrifice that parents or spouses accept for the good of the beloved ones can be compared to what Jesus has done for us. He has sacrificed everything to the point of giving up his own life on the cross for our sake. That type of sacrifice is salutary, because it is done in order to allow the beloved one to live fully and joyfully.

Jesus, indeed, has loved us totally and completely. His passion is a suffering of love for the salvation of humankind. He did not hesitate one second to give everything for us. Even when the conditions of life were difficult, he accepted everything for us, because he knew that our salvation depended on his obedience to the Father until death on the cross.

Even when people were praising him at his entrance into Jerusalem, Jesus did not lose his head in their gloriole and chants. With courage and abnegation, he assumed his destiny and indentified himself with the suffering servant of God whose wounds bring peace to the world. He gave his back to those who beat him; he offered his cheeks to those who plucked his beard and did not shield his face from buffets and spitting.

By accepting all this humiliation, God will reward him. God will give him a name that is above every name so that every creature on earth and in heaven may proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of the Father. That glory comes out of the cross and the suffering deliberately accepted.

Today, as we celebrate the passion of Jesus, let us pray for the innocent people who suffer unjustly all over the world. Let us also remember that when we make people suffer for one reason or another, we prolong the passion of Jesus. Let us pray in particular for the conversion of sinners and our own as Jesus invites us to forgive those who have hurt us as he did himself on the cross. May God bless you all!

Isaiah 50: 4-7; Philippians 2: 6-11; Luke 22: 14-23: 1-49



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Contact: www.mbala.org

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