

Rectoría de San Juan de Dios

Palm Sunday-Cycle B

Is 50, 4-7; Ps 22; Phil 2, 6-11; Mk 11, 1-10; Mk 14, 1-15, 47

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Let Us Understand Jesus, the Son of God

There were diverse groups among the crowd that accompanied Jesus on His entry into Jerusalem. There were His disciples who, although they had lived with Him for the past three years, did not clearly understand why Jesus entered Jerusalem in this way. There were people who had come a long distance; for them it could have something like a *folklórico* event. Those who spread their cloaks on the road wanted Jesus to assume political power. Laying their cloaks before Him signified their offering Him the power of the people. Finally, there were the priests and scribes, those who understood a little, but said nothing to the people; these men realized that Jesus was bringing to life a prophecy (Zec 9, 9) as no one had ever done before. This was now dangerous for them.

But no one understood Jesus and His deepest intentions; they did not understand the meaning of His dying and His final mission. Can we imagine how Jesus sees these people? When He fails to live up to their expectations, will the same people betray Him? Nevertheless, Jesus accepts that entrance into Jerusalem to complete the prophecy and to awaken, as much as possible, the conscience of those present.

Today we too stand at the entrance to the city of Holy Week, to the new Jerusalem; the worst that can happen to us is that we would be part of any of those groups that betrayed

Jesus. For that reason, we want to understand Him now, in His most profound motivations and in the plan of His Father.

How do we understand Jesus, the Son of God, and how do we accompany Him as far as His resurrection?

1-Let us not put up resistance.

Let us follow Him along the way of His self-emptying as, with full confidence in God, He accepts the humiliation without shielding His face from the insults and the spitting. Because of Him, we will not be ashamed taking this path.

This requires our letting go of all pride and pretension.

Taking the way of humility is hard work because we are very accustomed to positioning ourselves in any situation with all the securities, but if we want to understand Jesus, it is necessary to humble ourselves and to accept that whoever acclaims you, if he has not understood your plan, will soon betray you.

2-Let us make a rite of our feelings of love.

In the reading of the Passion of Mark, we could distinguish two characters who made a rite of their feelings: one is the woman who anointed Jesus with perfume, almost at the beginning of the narrative, and the other is the Roman centurion, at the end. Both served Mark to delimit the course of the passion of Jesus.

Living Easter this year, we can allow the liturgy to rouse us and permit the Word of God to awaken deep feelings in us. We would achieve a lot if we made one of those feelings become a rite, because in this way we would

come closer than ever to intimacy with Jesus; only then would we understand His reasons.

Let us look first at the Roman centurion: he would have been present all through the trial of Jesus. He saw the scourging that caused His head and shoulders to bleed. He was a witness to the cruel way that his fellow soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross. The centurion smelled the blood of Christ and the trodden grass of Golgotha; he perceived the stench of adrenalin in the crowd around him and he was shaken, facing the pain and the suffering. All of this filled him with deep feelings that he converted into a rite when he declared from the most profound part of his being, *“Truly this man was the Son of God!”*

The woman who anointed Jesus in the home of the Pharisee had understood about Jesus before many others because she had experienced His forgiveness. A woman condemned socially, without any possibility of having a place, found in Jesus the only way that God wants to save man, the way of mercy. After Christ liberates her, she follows His plan closely; she understands that she is going to lose Him, that Jesus is surrendering Himself, and that the only way to redemption is the way that He proposes. Because of that, nothing else matters; she dares to show herself in public because her love for Jesus and His plan is so great that she makes a rite of her anointing.

It will be something great if this Holy Week we choose only one feeling of love for Jesus and His plan and turn it into a rite because with it we set a seal on ourselves or our family. And if our rite is more universal, we will be able to set a seal on the community. If we do this, let it be without exaggerations, something attainable.

3-Let us accompany Jesus, the Son of God, to the end.

It is only if I see Jesus as the Son of God that I understand correctly why He undertook this way to save us. It will be an immense joy if, in the midst of so many new pagans, fanatics, or unfaithful, we manage to get away from the corruption and the condemnation of Christ and of the new faces of Christ that today are being crucified for recognizing the Son of God.

To accompany Jesus like this, as the Son of God and until the end, let us allow ourselves to be guided by those women who remained firm until the end, *“looking at everything from a distance.”* They are an inspiration and theirs is an unavoidable path in the course of our understanding Jesus.