

April 9, 2107, Palm Sunday

MT 21:1-11, 26:14, 27:66

IS 50:4-7

PH 2:6-11

Can you imagine all the awe, activity and even hesitation as the two disciples are sent into the village and find the donkey tethered, just as Jesus said it would be? Throughout Jesus' ministry, the disciples are continuously surprised and do not seem to get the vision and opportunity that Jesus has been telling them about. Do we find ourselves in doubt about Jesus in our life? Jesus explained the outcome of the trip to Jerusalem, how he will be punished and die, and yet he perseveres with the journey.

Just imagine the scene. People lined the streets and shouted for joy as Jesus the Messiah rode into town. This was someone special entering their midst. The people of the village could not wait to see Jesus go by. They treated him as a local hero, cheered him by waving palm branches, and, as he entered the village, the people proclaimed, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee!"

It seems hard to believe that in just a couple of days, the crowds that were cheering him on quickly will turn their backs on our Savior, shouting, "Crucify him!" Do we ever turn our back on what Jesus teaches?

At the Last Supper, the disciples still do not realize the fate of Jesus, and they do not see the vision that Jesus had discussed. They cannot even stay awake to support Jesus at the hour in which he needed them the most. Do we ever "sleep" while Jesus is with us? Do we realize that we have a Savior that gave his life for each and every one of us?

As we prepare ourselves to enter Holy Week this year, we each need to have faith and trust, and realize that all things are possible with God. We do believe! Do we have room in our hearts for the King of Glory?

Reflection questions:

- 1) How can I become a better disciple of Christ, especially in today's society?
- 2) Do we have the strength to stand steadfast beside Jesus, or by one another for our Christian faith?

Reflection by Deacon Dave Bergstedt, St. Paul Parish, Valparaiso.