

April 12, 2017

Mt 26: 14-25

Today, Jesus tells us that his hour is near. He knows what Judas is about to do and the chain of events that are about to unfold. Yet, even though he knows that the Roman soldiers are about to beat him mercilessly, march him naked through the streets, nail him to a cross and hang him up to die, he continues forward.

He didn't run from his cross. He willingly embraced it. It is on the cross where we find Jesus.

We cannot choose the crosses that we are given and must bear in this life. And sometimes, the cross that God gives us is the one we fear the most.

However, as Christians, we can choose how we are going to deal with those crosses. God doesn't always give us what we want but always has and always will give us what we need. With that knowledge and faith, we should view our crosses as a sign or road mark that God is giving us to guide us home toward heaven.

When our children disappoint us, when we lose our jobs, when our cancer returns, we can either run from our cross or distance ourselves from Jesus, or we can embrace it and cling on to him.

The cross of Jesus appeared to be his ultimate defeat. But he turned that defeat into his greatest victory. As his followers, we need to do the same.

Reflection questions:

If you believe that Jesus willingly opened his arms on the cross, suffered immensely and died for you, what are you doing about it?

What are you thinking about when you open the doors of your sanctuary and walk into his presence?

Reflection by Deacon Ed Bodley, St. John the Evangelist.