

## Good Friday ('12) '15

**Father, into your hands, I commend my spirit**

**The Gospel story of the Passion of Christ speaks for itself.  
Let me offer this short reflection on it.**

Does this story inspire you or dishearten you? You may remember Mel Gibson's movie, "*The Passion of the Christ*." Did it inspire you, or did it dishearten you? If it disheartened you, the movie was about the pain Jesus suffered; if it inspired you, the movie was about the love Jesus offered.

The biblical narrative of the Passion doesn't stress the pain and suffering Jesus endured. Matthew, Mark, and Luke's Gospels are very brief, just a few words: "*and they took him out and crucified him.*" That's it. Just a few words. Their focus is not on the pain.

What was important in Jesus' Passion was not his suffering, but his love. The story of the Passion reveals the depth of God's love for us. It is a story of love. It begins in the garden. In scripture, the garden is always a place for lovers. The Garden of Olives was a place where lovers met.

We all have our Passions - the disappointments and suffering that are a part of life. Christ is telling us to start always from a garden, from a place of love. The focus then becomes not how hard something is, but how deep our love is to make us willing to go through it.

I invite you to find a place of quiet, especially at night when all is dark. Read Jesus' passion through, and let it transform your pain into love, just as Jesus' pain was transformed into love. Your's too will become a Good Friday.