

March 29, 2015

Palm Sunday

The following is Pope Francis' Palm Sunday homily. Let us listen to him.

We have just listened to the Passion of the Lord. We might well ask ourselves: Who am I? Who am I, before my Lord? Who am I, before Jesus who enters Jerusalem amid the enthusiasm of the crowd? Am I ready to express my joy, to praise him? Or do I stand back? Who am I, before the suffering Jesus?

Am I like the leaders who had decided to kill Jesus. Am I like the disciples who understood nothing, who fell asleep while the Lord was suffering. Has my life fallen asleep? Am I like the disciple who wanted to settle everything with a sword? Am I like Judas who feigns love and then betrays Jesus?

Am I like Pilate? When I see that a situation is difficult, do I wash my hands and dodge my responsibility, allowing people to be condemned – or condemning them myself?

Am I like that crowd which was not sure whether they were at a religious meeting, a trial or a circus, and then chose Barabbas?

Am I like the soldiers who strike the Lord, spit on him, insult him, and find entertainment in humiliating him (in each other)?

Am I like the Cyrenean, who was returning from work, weary, yet was good enough to help the Lord carry his (each other's) cross?

Am I like those who walked by the cross and mocked Jesus: "*Let him come down from the cross and then we will believe in him!*"

Am I like those fearless women and the mother of Jesus who were there, and who suffered in silence?

Am I like Joseph, the hidden disciple, who lovingly carried the body of Jesus to give it burial?

Am I like the two Marys at the Tomb, weeping and praying?

Am I like those who went the next day who block life, who block the tomb, in order to maintain doctrine lest life come forth?

Pope Francis is inviting each of us to ask our selves,

“Where is my heart? Which of these persons am I like?”

May this question remain with us throughout entire Holy Week