

realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



In today's readings:

Entrance: Hosanna to the king! Matthew 21:1-11
The suffering servant. Isaiah 50:4-7
He humbled himself to become like us. Philippians 2:6-11
The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew 26:14-27:66

Next week: Easter Sunday.

Acts 10:34,37-43; Col
3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6-8; John
20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10

In a nutshell

Today's reading of the Passion, the suffering and death of Jesus, presents us with a great challenge. Can we find meaning in our sufferings and trials? Are we willing to allow our faith to bring us through our darkest hour towards a new and deeper experience of God's love? Do we really believe that love is stronger than death?



In touch with the mystery of life and death

I asked Anne, a close friend of mine, how she was coping with her father's death.

'I have been experiencing a real contact with death,' she replied. 'I learned a great deal about the "death rattle". Dad was dying for many hours. He would be breathing evenly, then he would stop breathing; then he would struggle again to get a breath. It was a difficult struggle for him as he hovered between life and death; a struggle that was going on right in front of me. I felt every part of it with him. His death moved me very deeply. I now understand the meaning of the word "expire". That's exactly what Dad did as he died. He gave up his struggling and breathed his last.'

A few days later, at the funeral, as a communion reflection, Anne gave a beautiful and moving account of her father's life and death, telling the story of a warm, loving human being. Only in the final couple of sentences did she falter slightly.

This emotional shift said more than all the words she had spoken, revealing the depths of her love for her father.

Anne was relating to the mystery of life and death, to the mystery of human love and tenderness. It is my experience that in such moments of truth another dimension breaks into our world. We cannot avoid them. Yet such moments are not always seen for what they are. They can escape our conscious recognition. They can easily pass us by without us seeing them for what they truly are: the 'in-flow of God' in our lives. (Noel)

A Prayer

From a prayer found in a concentration camp after the War:

O Lord, remember not only the men of goodwill, but also the men of ill will. But do not remember all the suffering they have inflicted on us, remember the fruits we have gathered thanks to this suffering - our comradeship, our loyalty, our humility, the courage, the generosity, the greatness of heart which has grown out of this - and when they come to judgment, let all the fruits which we have borne be their forgiveness.

Wounded healer

When the printing company that I work for was going through a difficult financial patch, I was impressed by the response of one of the firms who supplied us with our materials. They showed great trust and confidence in us and basically 'stood by us' while we regained our feet. They didn't change the

terms of credit, there was no big noting, no 'at risk' labels shoved in our faces. They were a small family company like us (not your typical 'grey suit' outfit) who had been through tough times themselves and who recognised that sometimes all it takes to turn things around is for a few people to believe in you. Out of their own wounds they were a great source of encouragement to us. (HC)



Think...Talk

Think of a wound in your life which has become a source of strength. How has this transformation occurred? What has helped the healing process? What healing is still needed? How will you seek this healing?

Pray

Hold out to God an area of your life that hurts deeply. Ask God for all that you need. Ask God to show you the precious gift or blessing which is hidden within this painful experience.



RealPeople offers faith reflections from the saints and prophets of everyday life.

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