

PRAY WITH SCRIPTURE, MEET GOD

Gospel at the Procession of Palms: Palm Sunday

April 14, 2019

Luke 19:28-40

Day One: Luke 19:28-31

Reflection question: Jesus sends two of his disciples to retrieve a donkey. Suppose you were one of his disciples, how would you respond? What questions might you have.

Day Two: Luke 19:32-35

Reflection Question: As the disciples help Jesus prepare to enter Jerusalem, where might you be in this scene: with the two disciples, with the other disciples, with the crowd, or off at a distance?

Day Three: Luke 19:36-37

Reflection Question: As Jesus rides along, the disciples praise God for all the mighty deeds they had seen. What have you witnessed God do in your life, in the lives of others?

Day Four: Luke 19:38-40

Reflection question: If you were in the crowd and heard Jesus' response to the Pharisees, what would you think? Do you believe the stones would cry out?

Day Five: Luke 19:28-40

Reflection question: As you read the entire passage today, what word, image or phrase sticks out for you? What do you think God is trying to say to you through your word, phrase, or image?

How to Pray Each Day

Pray:

“Lord Jesus, you who are the Son of the living God, teach me to listen to what you tell me in the holy Scriptures, and to discover your face there.”—Guigo II, the Carthusian (ca. 1113-1193)

Read the day's passage once, slowly:

Take 2-3 minutes to ponder the passage. Note any phrase, word or image that stands out for you.

Read the passage a second time slowly:

Take a few minutes to ponder the passage again. Stay with the text: Why do you think the words or image stand out the first time? Is your mind drawn to another part of the text?

What do you think God is trying to tell you through the text today?

Consider the Reflection Question:

Jot down any thoughts or responses you have to this question—also make note of any questions that rose from the text.

Pray

1. Take a few minutes to be still and present to God.
2. Share your thoughts, questions with God.
3. Is God “speaking” to you? Remember: it may not be a voice you hear but a nudge, a consolation or an insight. If you are keeping a journal, you may want to write these down.
4. When you feel done, say a quick prayer thanking God for this time with him.

Optional Small group session to follow these daily reflections:

Pray the following prayer or one in your own words

“Lord Jesus, you who are the Son of the living God, teach me to listen to what you tell me in the holy Scriptures, and to discover your face there.”—Guigo II, the Carthusian (d.1297)

Allow each person to reflect upon their encounters with the Word this past week. They may wish to review any notes or journaling they did at that time.

Read

- Have one person read the complete passage twice, with a 1-2 minute pause between readings.
- Allow time for silent reflection.
- What stands out when you hear the text, altogether? Is it something that stood out before, or is it something new?

Meditate

- Have someone else read the passage once more.
- Where do you meet God today in the Word? Does He speak, or communicate with you in another way?
 - Sit quietly with God and wait for his response.

Ponder

- Allow time for each person to quietly reflect upon these words from St. John Paul II: “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Luke 19:38). With these words, the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus as he entered the holy city, acclaiming him as King of Israel. A few days later, however, the same crowd would reject him with hostile cries: “Crucify, crucify him!” (Luke 23:21). The Palm Sunday liturgy makes us relive these two moments of the last week of the earthly life of Christ. It immerses us in that fickle crowd, which in a few days changed from joyful enthusiasm to murderous contempt.—Palm Sunday homily, April 4, 2004

Reflection questions:

- As we enter into Holy Week, where is Jesus for you: on the back of the donkey, in the Upper Room, in the Garden of Gethsemane, standing before Pilate, nailed to the cross, in the tomb?
- Where are *you*: outside the city gates, inside the gates, with Pilate, at the cross, at the tomb?
- What do you want to *say*? What do you want to *hear*?

Discuss

Allow each person to share what they encountered in their prayers this past week as in this session. They can respond to any question from their daily reflection or this session; or share an insight or experience that rose out of their prayer.

As the discussion draws to a close, ask if there are any needs members would like the group to pray for. If it is possible, at this time move to a chapel or the church for the closing prayer.

Pray

- Allow a time of silent prayer, allowing each person to offer their own silent prayers of praise and thanksgiving, petition to the Lord.
- Allow additional time to sit in the Lord’s presence.
- If possible and appropriate, allow each person to offer any prayers aloud.
- Close with prayer as is the custom of your community. It could be: a spontaneous prayer, a parish prayer for renewal said together, an Our Father, Glory Be or prayer to the patron saint of the parish asking his/her intercession, etc.