

Palm Sunday 2017
04/09/17

At this point in our liturgy, the Church says that a brief homily may be given, so let me share some brief thoughts. One author tells us that on Palm Sunday, a handful of days before the powerful and mad nail our Lord to a splintered cross, we too are invited to imagine ourselves in that moment, at that place. What do we see? What sounds and smells assault our senses? What, if anything, do we feel? Dominican Laurie Brink suggests the following.

She says that every year, the Passion account invites her to reflect on the words and what they reveal about the various characters. There are words of faith and surrender, “not as I will, but as you will;” remorse, “I have sinned in betraying innocent blood;” confidence, “Though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will never be;” taunt and accusation, “Let Him be crucified;” choice, “Let His blood be upon us and on our children;” seeming authority, “I order you;” fear, “Have nothing to do with that man;” and denial, “I do not know Him.”

Our words can build up or tear down. They speak truth or falsehood. They reveal faith and fear. Words are powerful. As we enter into Holy Week, we would do well to reflect on what our words say about us. Do they reveal love, life, truth, trust, and submission to the will of God or hate, death, falsehood, fear, and submission to our will alone? Often they reveal a mix of both.

Ms. Brink asks that we be like Jesus, who emptied Himself and took on all our limitations with the exception of sin, even death, so that we might be servants with well-trained tongues that reveal our willingness to speak truth.