

In reply, is it I, Lord?

April 12, 2017

Wednesday of Holy Week



“Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” Matthew 26:21

Our first reading (Isaiah) is the third of four Servant Songs. These songs are poems that told the Israelites various details/prophesies about the coming of the Messiah. The focus of this Servant Song concentrates on Jesus’ obedience to his Father’s will. The first part of the reading centers on the abuse inflicted upon this servant, Jesus, by his enemies. In the second part, Jesus tells us, “I gave back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide my face from shame and spitting.” (vs 6) He actively chose to accept the consequences of his teachings and proclamations.

Through this passage we are reminded of the “cost” of following the Lord. Faithfulness and humility are certainly two core values deeply seeded in love that help us to accomplish our goal of living his Word as we prepare for his Kingdom.

Today’s Gospel sets the scene for the final drama of the mission of Jesus as he shares a meal, the Passover, with his chosen twelve. Jesus informs his followers that one of them will betray him. They ponder this announcement and question themselves. Then Judas asks Jesus if he is the betrayer. Jesus replied, “You have said so.” Sometimes we wonder why Judas betrayed Jesus. Was he disillusioned? Was he motivated by greed? Did he refuse to accept Jesus at his word? What a tragedy Judas refused to accept Jesus.

Reflection:

- *Many times we face betrayal, deceit or disagreements by our friends. Do I betray my friends through word or action? How do I handle disagreements?*
- *Do I ask God to strengthen my trust, faith and love so that I do not turn away from him to follow my own desires, my own will?*
- *Am I willing to change or do I expect God to change?*

Prayer:

“God our Father, we are exceedingly frail and indisposed to every virtuous and gallant undertaking. Strengthen our weakness, we beseech you that we may do so valiantly in this spiritual war; help us against our own negligence and cowardice, and defend us from the treachery of our unfaithful hearts; for Jesus Christ’s sake.” (Prayer of Thomas a Kempis)

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