

GOOD FRIDAY FOOD FOR THOUGHT

(Isaiah 52:13-53: 12)

Today we have the solemn emptiness of Good Friday, and Jesus' appalling death. The gospel is the story of Jesus' Passion from John's Gospel; and as you listen or read it, you might like to notice how John makes it the cross a throne of glory.

Today may I suggest that in the quietness of our homes we might find time to go through the first reading (Isaiah 52:13-53: 12). Simply sitting with this extraordinary passage, reading it slowly, several times over, will likely say something to us all. The Lord will be there with you. As you do so you will be in touch with the instincts of Jesus himself, as they grappled to make sense of his death.

There are several points that might help you go deeper into the mystery:

- First, we hear God speaking of "my servant". This tells us that the victory is won.
- Next, no punches are pulled in revealing what has happened to the "servant": "his appearance was disfigured...his form marred"
- The servant, whoever he was (but it fits Jesus very well) is "a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering"
- What happened to him was done for us "he took up our infirmities, carried our sorrows"
- Our part in it brings us no credit: "our transgressions, our iniquities...we have gone astray"
- The Servant (and here we must of course think of Jesus) did not resist: "did not open his mouth...a lamb to the slaughter"
- Even though he did not deserve what happened: "he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth"
- But God is in there ("it was the Lord's will") and therefore all shall be well: "he will see the light of life...therefore I shall give him a portion among the great".

Have a Blessed Good Friday!!

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