

*Saturday of week 15 in Ordinary Time*

Readings at mass -

Micah 2:1-5, Psalm 9B(10):1-4,7-8,14, Matthew 12:14-21

Why didn't Jesus want them to make Him known? Obviously, He was not afraid of persecution or even death. Why did Jesus allow himself to be betrayed and caught? If He carried on for a few more years, many could have been converted, healed, and cured and by the hands of God himself! He said to Peter who tried to save Him with a sword, "Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?"

Yes, we know that Jesus did not want fame and preferred to spend the time with His Father and always spoke to the crowd about heaven - His Father's house. St. Luke wrote, "But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray". However, there is something more substantial happening in the today's Gospel - we read, "this was to fulfil the prophecy..." Jesus is always looking to do the will of His father.

The arrogant one is always opposing God, "full of cursing, guile, deceit under his tongue", but look at Jesus, He does not even raise His voice, the voice that has the power to break the cedars (Ps 29:5). He was the Beloved of the Father; whose words were not His own but from the Father who sent Him. He was the servant King, who was obedient to the Father until the point of death. Jesus desired nothing more, not the whole world (Cf. Lk 4:5-7), only to do the Father's will and then return to heaven showing the way for us to follow. It is in service too by imitating our king, that we discover our vocations – "For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves" (Lk 22:27). *Though He was in the form of God*, Jesus delighted in doing the will of His Father, *emptying Himself* and showed His disciples *the way*.