

Rev. Derek Fairman

Good Friday

We know that the Lord Jesus took upon Himself our sins, and that He died for us. However, what we can think about is how our sins affected the Lord Jesus. In the prophet Isaiah, the prophet writes about the suffering servant, “So marred was His look beyond human resemblance....” We can perhaps imagine that the Lord’s sufferings affected Him even in how He looked to everyone. We can imagine the Lord’s condition as He walked to Calvary.

In the writings of Blessed Anne Catherine Emerich, she writes about how the Mother of God was awaiting her Son on His way to Calvary. She was not sure if she had the strength to endure the sight of her Son in His condition. She was not afraid, nor was she unwilling to be with Him, but it was His sentence and the state that He was in, that had brought this about. In these writings, St. John the Evangelist told her that if she did not see Him, she would regret it later.

Imagine being at her station, where she waited for Him to pass by. His condition was such that even His Mother needed to find the strength to bear it. This condition that He was in was the result of the hatred that had grown against Him. More so, this condition is due to the ugliness of sin. Sin robs us of the beauty and joy that God intends for us to have. On this Good Friday, we can recognize that this is not a day of joy, because this is a time of pain and suffering. Yet the Lord submitted to this condition, because He always did His Father’s will.

Sometimes we might not think about how our sins rob us of joy and beauty. We might dismiss our sins as not being something to worry about. However, as we contemplate the Lord’s suffering and death, we can begin to see how ugly sin truly is. We can begin to understand how sin can distort our souls. In the Stations of the Cross by St. Alphonsus Ligouri, the sixth station, in which Veronica wipes the Lord’s face, St. Alphonsus writes: “My Beloved Jesus, Your face was beautiful before, but in this journey, it has lost all its beauty, and wounds and blood have disfigured it. My soul also was once beautiful, when it received Your grace in Baptism; but I have disfigured it since by my sins.”

Today we also have hope that God can restore that beauty to our souls. We know that the Lord’s suffering and death was not the end. Everything was not lost; there was still hope, because the Lord had predicted His suffering and death, as well as His resurrection. Let us pray that the Lord will give us the hope we need in our lives.