

He, GOD the SON, granted satisfaction to GOD's Justice. Now you may run to GOD the FATHER like a child in spite of your guilt of sin and tell Him: „I love You!“ What about the FATHER, who is Love and Goodness Himself? Will He not take you in His arms caressingly if you go to Him like that? However, you can only do this because the SAVIOUR reconciled you with the FATHER in the bitterest pains.

With rare exceptions I never felt like an adult before GOD; I am like a child before Him. If you do not have this childlike love, then ask the Saints of Heaven to help you. Above all, ask GOD the HOLY SPIRIT to put words and emotions of childlike love into your heart. For it says: „Because you are sons and daughters, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‚Abba, Father.‘ (Gal 4,6) Be like a child towards GOD, then you may jump on His knees.

Excerpt of the Sermon of Palm Sunday, 5 April 2009



Schwert-Bischof
JESU CHRISTI

**Be blessed by GOD TRINITY,
the + FATHER and the + SON
and the + HOLY GHOST. Amen!**

Schwert-Bischof
JESU CHRISTI
sb.



Sermon

of the *Sword-Bishop*

Holy Week Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday we remember the solemn entry of JESUS into Jerusalem. We remember the hosannas of the people that so quickly turned into the cry of „crucify Him“. Sometimes it seems to me as if this is still the case today: many people kneel before GOD devotionally, they try to be good; but if things do not turn out the way they would like them to, they, too, cry out: „Away with You...!“ And because GOD is loyal to them in spite of their reproaches, they go away themselves.

Sin Curses the Earth

I often hear reproaches: „Where is GOD? How can He allow such wars, such catastrophes to happen? Why does He not help? As He is Love Himself, how can He just watch and do nothing?“ My beloved, GOD created everything in a good and beautiful way. But the sin of man cursed the earth and is cursing it again and again. Not GOD is to blame, but man's sinfulness.

For example, in paradise the hair of Adam and Eve was like shining rays of holiness. Compared to this, it now is like mere bristles. But it is interesting that the hair is still the ornament of man. It is the same with the flowers, the animals and everything else on earth. And yet, although so many things are degenerated and destroyed and still are being destroyed through man's sin: GOD is present! If you were far away in the most remote regions and you would find a blade of grass or a little flower you can say: GOD is there! For the blade of grass and the little flower can only exist because the presence of GOD brings them to life. „... and the Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters.“ (Gen1,2) Besides, GOD does not even have to wish it to grow, because His presence is life!

To Fast in Sackcloth and Ashes

On Palm Sunday, according to old tradition, the Church blessed branches, which were often put behind the cross at home. At the beginning of Lent in the following year these branches were burned. These ashes were used by the priest on Ash Wednesday to sprinkle them on the heads of the faithful or to mark their foreheads in the form of a Cross. Ashes as a sign of penance are a tradition from the Old Testament: „And I set my face to the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.“ (Dan 9,3)

We do not keep up these traditions anymore. When I was still a child these theatrical ceremonies already bothered me, ceremonies which were great fun especially for children and young people. These include the blessing of the palm branches on Palm Sunday, the washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday and the marking with ashes in the shape of a cross on Ash Wednesday. These ceremonies served for the most part only as a curiosity and took the attention off the church service. The prophet Isaiah was forced to warn people in the name of God already at that time: „Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for a man to humble himself? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying on sackcloth and ashes? ... Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to lose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free ... Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter, when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?“ (Is 58,5 ff)

Let us abide by the New Testament. I know that the SAVIOUR always took care of his appearance. He teaches: „When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth; they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.“ (Matt 6,16ff)

In Holy Week we remember in particular JESUS' Passion, which He endured for the love of you and me. Making little sacrifices should go without saying. A little fasting in meat and drink. Even more valuable is the fasting of the tongue, i.e. to fast from talking. For many a spoken word is like snake poison. And then: fasting a bit with the eyes and turning off the television a little more often.

Blessed Are You When People Insult You

Because of faith some are mocked at; children are teased at school. Do you react in anger? If so, it is wrong. You are anointed by the confirmation, are you not? You are a soldier of GOD, are you not? Smile if someone mocks at you. If you give a friendly smile to the mocker in return, you will win him over. Then the mockery will lose its goad and the mocker his weapon. For the Evil One will only be pleased if you get upset. Your anger would only stimulate the mocker to continue his mockery. „Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.“ (Matt 5,11ff) If you react in this way you will earn great merits. Then you will be made like to the SAVIOUR, who also endured scorn and mockery and thus earned this grace for you. – Of course, there are also situations where you can and must stand up for yourself. You will sense when to put up with it in the name of GOD and when to stand up for yourself.

Contemplating the Passion of CHRIST

In the books "The Poem of the Man-God" by Maria Valtorta and "The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ" by A. K. Emmerich you can read about the Passion of JESUS. Highly recommended is also the film "The Passion of the Christ" by Mel Gibson. However, bear in mind that in such a film only the physical suffering can be shown. The SAVIOUR could have used His Divinity so as not to feel the pain. But He did the opposite: He used His Divinity so as not to die until everything had been accomplished for the salvation of souls. If He had not been GOD, He would have already died from the sweating of blood. But even a thousand times more painful, a trillion times, indeed infinitely more painful was His mental pain. Being GOD, He humiliated Himself very much and allowed His creatures, heinous henchmen, but also the then priests and high priests, to condemn Him, spit at Him, beat and kill Him.

Childlike Love of God

GOD is Justice Himself, as He is Love Himself, Goodness Himself and so on. The SAVIOUR has loaded the burden of our sins onto Himself in His divine love for us and He delivered Himself to GOD's Justice. In this way
