

Did the SAVIOUR fare any better then? Did the SAVIOUR not also tremble at the weight of His suffering, even sweat Blood? „FATHER,“ He said, „if it is possible, let this cup be taken from Me, yet not My will but Yours be done!“ He even accepted doubt for our sake; He would not have had any, but for our sake He took upon Himself doubt, making Him exclaim: „My GOD, My GOD, why have You forsaken Me?“ If we are frightened for a moment and ask ourselves: „Where is GOD?“ JESUS' sacrifice can give us the strength, if we go and get it from Him. And we as JESUS' followers cannot expect to merely have a beautiful, wonderful life; we, too, might have to experience, endure this desolation when we sometimes feel abandoned by GOD. In those moments Christian heroism shows itself. Do let us bear hardship with Him if it comes over us. At our death, however, Paschal joy will await us for an eternity full of jubilation. Amen!

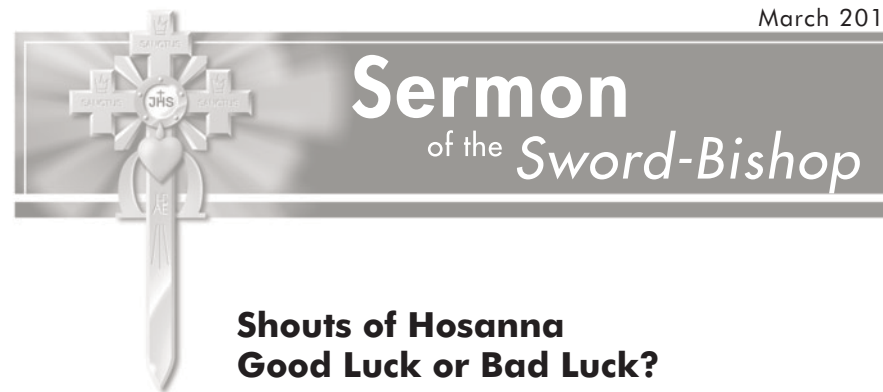
Excerpt from the sermon of 29 March 2015



Schwert-Bischof
JESU CHRISTI

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

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Shouts of Hosanna Good Luck or Bad Luck?

My dearly beloved! Palm Sunday – JESUS' entry into Jerusalem. In those days the call was enough: „JESUS, the Rabbi from Galilee is coming to Jerusalem!“ and everyone abandoned their work and rushed to meet JESUS. They shouted: „Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the Name of the LORD!“ Even today you do hear this call every Sunday: „JESUS is coming!“ Well? The bed has first priority, sleeping, lying is more important still. In those days the SAVIOUR entered Jerusalem very humbly sitting on a donkey. Today He appears even more humbly, if one may say so: in a morsel of bread and a draught of wine, which, of course, after the Holy Consecration are Body and Blood of JESUS CHRIST. Perhaps because of this humility it does not appeal to many people. Because today people are often no longer sensitive to the call: „JESUS is coming,“ they try to lure them into the churches by other means: with big shows, a modern touch, with inappropriate music. For that you do not need a church! Because this big show, which is performed in many churches, can be had anywhere, in any place of entertainment.

Our Everyday Life Should Take a Good and Smooth Course

Of course, the people in Jerusalem welcomed the SAVIOUR so euphorically, because they had heard that He had provided a huge crowd of people with bread and that He had raised Lazarus from the dead. They were hoping: „To have such a Miracle-Worker

would be good all right. Now everyone is shouting Hosanna to Him. Perhaps He will soon be riding a large horse flanked by soldiers on both sides, and will finally drive the Romans out of Israel." Is it not the same today? Is there not euphoria, a joy in us, if GOD grants our heart, or rather our soul the grace to sense: „GOD is here!”? GOD gives this feeling because we still need it in the beginning. And then we reckon: „Now everything will go smoothly and effortlessly and nicely," thinking that GOD will now make our everyday life carefree, will heal us from pain, disease and impediments and will give us a happy life. Yet this is not the case.

And then, what happens? If people despite prayer and efforts for GOD run into difficulties, suffer from diseases, have unpleasant experiences, does their love towards GOD come to an end then? That is what happened also to the Jews at that time. Realising that JESUS was no king as they imagined Him to be, who would expel the Romans, they shouted: „He is no good to us after all, so let us crucify Him!" Are there among us not also some who complain: „Those who ignore GOD are always doing well, but we are not, we are having a hard time. So I will also give it a try and live without GOD, then I will be doing well, too!" Do you know why they are sometimes doing well without GOD? Well, the good GOD is bound to reward them, too, for He is just. There is no evil person who does not also have something good about them. GOD rewards those people here on earth. To put it straightforwardly, then after death you will have Heaven and the others will have hell. Besides, if you are connected with GOD, you can remain calm in greatest distress. It is often observed that many relatives are completely downhearted when perhaps someone from the family has died. They cry and cry and are inconsolable, but before, they did not give any attention to these people nor did they have a relationship with GOD. Now they have nothing to fall back on.

Having Come to Maturity through Bad Luck

Just let me read something to you that once happened in Mongolia. This story shows clearly that not everything which appears as such is

misfortune or a stroke of bad luck. Once upon a time there lived an old farmer who bred horses. He had a son, who assisted him at work. One morning his most fiery stallion vamoosed. The whole village moaned: „What bad luck!" but the old man just said: „Good luck or bad luck? Who knows, who knows ..." – After a few days the stallion returned with a whole herd of wild mares. The whole village rejoiced: „What luck!" The old man repeated: „Good luck or bad luck? Who knows, who knows ..." – The next day the son tried to break in one of the wild horses. The horse threw him off and he broke his leg. The people in the village moaned: „What bad luck! What bad luck!" – „Good luck or bad luck? Who knows, who knows..." the old man repeated. – The very next day the emperor's soldiers marched into the village to conscript young men. However, the farmer's son had a broken leg. He was of no use to the soldiers and they went on. The people of the village were relieved: „What good luck for the father!" Therefore: good luck or bad luck? You never can tell.

Think twice before you say: „What bad luck!" Great Saints have become holy through bad luck. Ignatius of Loyola was an officer. A bullet hit his leg and he had to be hospitalised. Because he was a pleasure-seeker, of course, he wanted some writings to read, which I would not recommend. They did not have any because this hospital was managed by sisters. And so, out of sheer boredom, Ignatius took out the Bible for once, which was offered to him as reading matter. And he began reading it, was converted and became Saint Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuit Order. Many have matured through bad luck.

GOD Keeps His Promise

GOD does not fulfil all our wishes, but He will keep everything He promised us. What is more important: that GOD fulfils all our wishes here on earth, to our liking, or that He is our Redeemer from our sins, from eternal damnation? At Baptism GOD promises us, if we remain faithful to Him, that He will not abandon us even in difficult times, in disaster, in need and sorrow, but that He will always be there for us, either directly through His intervention or through His servants. Moreover, there is holy Confirmation, which gives us the strength and the courage to overcome such evil days and not to collapse.
