

Palm Sunday Year A

There was an elderly man one time who used to meditate every morning under a big tree on the bank of the River Ganges in India. One day, after he had finished praying, the man opened his eyes and saw a scorpion floating helplessly on the water. As the scorpion washed nearer to the tree the man stretched out his hand in an attempt to save the drowning creature. As soon as he touched it, the scorpion stung him. Instinctively, the man withdrew his hand. A few minutes later, he stretched out his hand again to save the floundering scorpion. Again, the scorpion stung him. At that very moment, a passerby, seeing what had happen shouted: " Hey old man, what's the matter with you. Only a fool would risk his life to save an ugly evil creature. Don't you know that you could kill yourself trying to save that ungrateful scorpion?" "My friend, the old man replied, "just because its in the scorpion's nature to sting doesn't change the fact that its in my nature to save!"

With this story in mind, we turn to Holy Week where we remember and celebrate that its in God's nature to love, to forgive, to heal, protect and save. Even when human beings do what is wrong and selfish or downright evil, God's nature does not change. God's love for us is beyond anything we can ever begin to imagine. Across the world this week, Christians will journey with Jesus through his passion, death, and resurrection. This is the most solemn, holiest week of the year for Christians-remembering the events that give the ultimate meaning of our faith. Today, we accompanied Jesus as he entered Jerusalem for the last time. Our Gospel today brought us through the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus which would occur in a few day's time. We heard of how he was paraded through the streets carrying the beam of his cross. A point about that parade, is that there were probably lots of people around. Some watched that dreadful event and were moved but afraid to intervene, others jeered at another criminal getting what he deserved- though they had no idea who he was. Still more went on with business as usual.

What happened to this man didn't matter a great deal to them.

What about us? Jesus asks us to remember this parade this week. He invites us to be a part of his passion, his death and resurrection.

As we go through uncertainty of these times due to the Coronavirus COVID-19, many of us are anxious and afraid and troubled. So many unanswerable questions and concerns. All we can do is take things one day at a time. Stay close God. Walk with God this week-even if you have never participated in Holy Week services before or not for a long time.

Remember that its in God's nature to love, to heal, to forgive, protect and save. That's exactly what the coming week is all about. Jesus invites our participation. I plan on being there. I hope many of you can join me..