

Palm Sunday: March 16th

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH

Read: 1 Timothy 6:12-16

Centering Thought

God's parade that Palm Sunday in old Jerusalem was small compared to the great procession that is to come when Christ the Victor returns in all His glory, and brings all His saints with Him. But for this parade, the object is a Cross, and in just a few days that Cross will be realized for all history to see and believe. The foe He was conquering is the one we battle today in the conquest of faith. Our role is to fight it well, as He fought His, and to be victorious to the end in His Name. It is the fight of faith that conquers all. But the cross always comes before the crown.

Reflections

Look at the fight the apostle Paul made that brought the Gospel message to the known world of his own day. And look at all those who came to faith in Jesus Christ because of his faithful service to God as his Lord. "Fight" may seem like an inappropriate term to many modern Christians in today's world, but that is because they have not been willing to define the parameters of Christian witness as Jesus Christ defines them. In many parts of today's world to stand up for Christ means to be put down, even martyred, for one's faith. But in places where Christians are tolerated and society is so pluralistic that anything goes, little suffering is done unless we see the darkness surrounding us for what it really is.

Some call ours a "Christian Nation" yet in reality Christ is conspicuous by His absence. We act as if it is all right for Jesus Christ to be absent so long as we are willing to put "In God We Trust" on our money and salute our flag as "One nation, under God..." Is God supposed to understand why we claim to be His while rejecting His Son? According to the New Testament, to reject the Son is to reject the Father. The only God that exists is the "Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." We only know the Father because He has been revealed to us in the Son.

Lent is not a time to have to figure out who Jesus is; it is a time of reflecting on who we are in Christ as our Lord. Many years ago when E. Stanley Jones was a missionary in India, Gandhi asked him why he was a Christian. Jones replied, "Because everything I would want God to be, Jesus Christ is!" We know who God is because we have met Him in Jesus Christ, and He is "full of grace and truth." The fight we are in is living for Christ and presenting Him to a world that is perishing for want of Him.

Prayer

Lord, Christ's Advent is when He came, His Passion is why He came, and what all this means is why we proclaim Him as God Incarnate. We seek to show forth the Victory He has won and the Cross by which it was secured. Thank You for saving us in Him. In Jesus' Name. Amen.