

## FR.TK.REFLECTIONS PALM SUNDAY YEAR A 2023.

### TRIUMPH AND HUMILITY:

It is very normal whenever so called big personality is visiting a city, town or a village, a lot of preparation is made to welcome the person. Buildings and streets are decorated. In African they plant artificial banana plants along the way and it is obvious to wave the tree branches (replaced by country flags of late) red or green carpet is put in place depending on the status of the individual personality.

This is the situation we are being treated to in the gospel of Jesus entry into His city of Jerusalem (Mt. 21:1-11). It can be called the gospel of the Lord **triumph**. His **humility** is clearly manifested on how he entered the city using a **donkey, the kind of personalities who met and welcomed him. Humility and triumph are all manifested in the reception accorded to him.** He has more rights than either Herod or Caesar the political leaders of the time. He is of David's **house and lineage**. He is the reason God set up David's house because the savior would come from there. Missing in action in the crowd to welcome him are Herod's staff, ruling party of Sanhedrin, no guard of honor, no parade, no one is anyone there!

Jesus rides on a donkey, no fancy flowers donated by the rich and the city fathers and business men and women of Jerusalem. The Lord way is lined by poor with palm branches yet turning the city upside down like what is happening in Nairobi Kenya (People demanding their rights, food security, high cost of living, lack of jobs, free education etc). Jews demonstrated peacefully not throwing stones, burning forests, stealing sheep or pickpocketing, landing the city to uncontrolled chaos, which psychologically can be interpreted as **mob Psychosis**). Palm Sunday is proper sign of **triumph and exaltation and humility of Jesus.**

The crowd shouted their **hosanna as they bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord God** (Mt. 21:9) They knew He was the son of David and they expected Him to be the King to deliver them from political bondage. They expected the savior of Israel hence hailed him with thanksgiving psalm 118. They were very much discouraged when he

turned out to be spiritual leader and a savior for the whole world hence some turned their attention to a different tune **crucify him, we don't know him, he termed himself as a king.**

We have a lot to learn from this episode of the entry of a Jesus into Jerusalem indeed. How do we **prepare his coming to us in different moments? sacraments especially Eucharist! Scripture readings.**

How are we preparing for the Holy Week, **suffering, death and Resurrection.**

Our main Gospel (Mt. 26:14-27-66) which is the passion of Christ is inviting us to think about his suffering and death. The approach to different people depends on one's situation.

-Those who hear it first time **will be shocked by unjust suffering.**

-they will be shocked by the **cowardice exhibited by apostles.**

-Those who have been victims of **abuse, harassment, bullying** will see in the passion a person bullied by the crowd and the Roman soldiers.

-people betrayed by their spouse's, close friends will, listen keenly on **Christ betrayed by Judas, denied by Peter, and deserted by other apostles in the hour of need even after breaking bread together.**

-person in leadership will be **uncomfortable as they hear how Jesus is treated by religious leaders and government who fail to act as they should.**

-people currently with **physical and psychological pain**, will, pay more attention where Jesus **endures physical and mental anguish.**

-person sensing **the end of life is near despite all the medication and healing charismatic prayers** will be keen on **word of Jesus on the cross my God, my God why have you forsaken me!**

People with growing with love of God will see the passion as another **affirmation of God's love for them.** He loves us no doubt about that.

**WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE FROM THE PASSION THIS LENT!**