

The Faith of Our Fathers

The blind man sees more than the disciples. The disciples could neither see nor understand why Our Lord had to suffer death on the cross. But the blind man understands Our Lord's mission. He willingly suffers death so that He might freely give us His mercy. So the blind man begs for the Lord's mercy. "Admire with me the steadfastness of this man's confession—how, although rebuked, he would not keep silent, he would not hold his peace, but cried out for the Lord's mercy." (Patriarch Theophylactus) ❧❧❧

The blind man could not see the Light of Truth, but in his soul he could feel His Presence, and with the desire of his heart he laid hold of what his eye could not see. "What is the meaning of all these people?" he asks. They tell him that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by. O wondrous event! He is told one thing, and cries out another. They who could see made answer from what was known by common report, but the blind man makes known what he had learned from Truth Itself. For he cries out: Jesus Son of David, have mercy on me. (St. John Chrysostom) ❧❧❧

In today's Gospel Our Lord pointedly tells His twelve disciples privately of His impending suffering. His words are similar to those which the angel addressed later to the women at the tomb on Easter: "Remember how He spoke unto you when He was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." This is the way with all of God's words and works; at first speaking, before they happen, people don't comprehend them. For God's Word speaks of things which human reason cannot understand or conceive by itself. We should believe it, and we will in due time find out that it is indeed true and then we will rightly understand it. (Blessed Martin Luther) ❧❧❧

For *Quinquagesima*. These excerpts are intended as meditative pieces for the Day's pericopes. They have been edited and abridged for style, sense and space.

The Faith of Our Fathers

The blind man sees more than the disciples. The disciples could neither see nor understand why Our Lord had to suffer death on the cross. But the blind man understands Our Lord's mission. He willingly suffers death so that He might freely give us His mercy. So the blind man begs for the Lord's mercy. "Admire with me the steadfastness of this man's confession—how, although rebuked, he would not keep silent, he would not hold his peace, but cried out for the Lord's mercy." (Patriarch Theophylactus) ❧❧❧

The blind man could not see the Light of Truth, but in his soul he could feel His Presence, and with the desire of his heart he laid hold of what his eye could not see. "What is the meaning of all these people?" he asks. They tell him that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by. O wondrous event! He is told one thing, and cries out another. They who could see made answer from what was known by common report, but the blind man makes known what he had learned from Truth Itself. For he cries out: Jesus Son of David, have mercy on me. (St. John Chrysostom) ❧❧❧

In today's Gospel Our Lord pointedly tells His twelve disciples privately of His impending suffering. His words are similar to those which the angel addressed later to the women at the tomb on Easter: "Remember how He spoke unto you when He was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." This is the way with all of God's words and works; at first speaking, before they happen, people don't comprehend them. For God's Word speaks of things which human reason cannot understand or conceive by itself. We should believe it, and we will in due time find out that it is indeed true and then we will rightly understand it. (Blessed Martin Luther) ❧❧❧

For *Quinquagesima*. These excerpts are intended as meditative pieces for the Day's pericopes. They have been edited and abridged for style, sense and space.

It was the heart and will of Jesus to suffer. Such will to suffer He reveals in today's Gospel. For He declares that He will go up to Jerusalem in order to be crucified. It is as if He said, "Behold, My heart, and see that I will endure My suffering freely and gladly in obedience to My Father's will. Therefore, you must not be afraid or terrified when you behold My sufferings. You must not think that I bear them unwillingly, or that I am compelled to endure them, or that I am forsaken, or that the Jews have power to do this to Me." It is such a wonderful thing that the Son of Man is crucified willingly and joyfully for our good. And when we see His heart and will in it, it gives us true comfort, trust and joy in Christ. (Blessed Martin Luther) ❧❧❧

It was the heart and will of Jesus to suffer. Such will to suffer He reveals in today's Gospel. For He declares that He will go up to Jerusalem in order to be crucified. It is as if He said, "Behold, My heart, and see that I will endure My suffering freely and gladly in obedience to My Father's will. Therefore, you must not be afraid or terrified when you behold My sufferings. You must not think that I bear them unwillingly, or that I am compelled to endure them, or that I am forsaken, or that the Jews have power to do this to Me." It is such a wonderful thing that the Son of Man is crucified willingly and joyfully for our good. And when we see His heart and will in it, it gives us true comfort, trust and joy in Christ. (Blessed Martin Luther) ❧❧❧