

QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY

(Lk 18:31-43)

(Poem Vol. 3, p.387, Vol.5, p. 732, pp.313-4; Gospel Vol. 5, p.342, Vol. 10, p. 278, Vol. 9, pp.253-4)

(Jesus is speaking to the apostles and he refers to the words of the Prophets)

[...] Jesus has been listening to them, looking at each while he was speaking, with His arms folded on His chest. He now makes a gesture that He wants to speak and He says: "The Son of man will be handed over into the power of men because He is the Son of God, but He is also the Redeemer of man. And there is no redemption without suffering. My body, flesh and blood will suffer, to make amends for the sins of the flesh and of the blood. I will suffer morally to make amends for the sins of intentions and passions. And I will suffer spiritually for the sins of souls. My suffering will be complete. Therefore, at the appointed time I will be captured in Jerusalem and after suffering grievously at the hands of the Elders and High Pontiffs, of the scribes and Pharisees, I will be sentenced to disgraceful death. And God will let them do so, because it must be so, as I am the Lamb Who is to expiate the sins of the whole world. And in deepest anguish, which My Mother and few more people will share with Me, I will die on the scaffold, and three days later, exclusively through My own divine will, I will rise again to eternal glorious life as Man and once again I will be God in Heaven with the Father and the Spirit. But I must first suffer all infamy and My heart is to be pierced by Falsehood and Hatred.

But did David not say that this powerful King had all things placed under His feet as a footstool? Did Isaiah not narrate all His Passion, and did David not count, one might say, also His tortures? And is it not said that He is the Saviour and Redeemer, Who with His holocaust will save sinful mankind? And is it not stated, and Jonah is the sign, that for three days He would be swallowed by the insatiable stomach of the Earth, and then He would be ejected as the prophet was by the whale? And was it not said by Him: 'My Temple, that is My Body, the third day after being destroyed, will be rebuilt by Me (that is, by God)?' And what did you think? That by magic He would raise the walls of the Temple again? No. Not the walls. But Himself. And God only could make Himself rise from the dead. He has raised the true Temple: His Body of the Lamb. Sacrificed, as Moses received the order and the prophecy, to prepare the 'passage' from death to Life, from slavery to freedom, of men, the children of God and slaves of Satan.

How did He rise? you ask each other. I reply: He has risen with His true Body and with His Divine Spirit that dwells in it, as in every mortal body there dwells the soul as queen of the heart. That is how He has risen after suffering everything to expiate everything, and make amends for the primitive Offence and for the countless ones that every day are committed by Mankind. He has risen as it had been said under the veil of the prophecies. He had come at His time, I remind you of Daniel, at His

time He was sacrificed. And listen and remember, at the time predicted after His death the deicide town will be destroyed.

I advise you to do this: read the prophets with your souls, not with proud minds, from the beginning of the Book to the words of the Sacrificed Word; remember the Precursor who indicated Him as the Lamb; recall which was the destiny of the symbolic Mosaic lamb. The first-born of Israel were saved through that blood. Through this Blood the first-born of God will be saved, that is, those who with good will have made themselves sacred to the Lord.'

Jesus is about to go away, but from the cross-road that has now been overtaken, two more plaintive cries are heard in the typical Jewish accent, coming from the place where the donkeys have been left by the people who received the miracle: "Jesus, Lord! Son of David, have mercy on me!" And once again, in a louder voice, to overcome the shouts of the crowd who say: "Be quiet. Let the Master go on. The way is a long one, and the sun is becoming stronger and stronger. Let Him reach the hills before it gets hot." they shout: "Jesus, Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me."

Jesus stops again saying: "Go and get those who are shouting and bring them here to Me."

Some volunteers go. They reach the two blind men and say: "Come. He has mercy on you. Stand up because He wants to satisfy you. He sent us to call you in His name." and they try to guide the two blind men through the crowd.

But if one lets them guide him, the other, who is younger and probably has more faith, precedes the intentions of the volunteers and moves forward by himself, with his stick pointed forward and the typical smile and attitude of blind people in raising their faces seeking light... and he proceeds so fast and sure of himself that he seems to be led by his angel. If his eyes were not white, he would not seem to be blind.

He is the first to arrive before Jesus Who stops him asking: "What do you want Me to do for you?"

"That I may see, Master. O Lord, let my eyes and those of my companion open." The other blind man has arrived and they make him kneel near his companion.

Jesus lays His hands on their raised faces and says: "Let it be done as you wish. Go! Your faith has saved you!"

He removes His hands and two cries come from their lips: "I can see, Uriel!"; "I can see, Bartimaeus!" and then together: "Blessed He Who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed He Who sent Him! Glory be to God! Hosanna to the Son of David" and prostrating themselves with their faces on the ground they kiss Jesus' feet. They

then stand up and the one named Uriel says: "Lord, I am going to let my relatives see me, then I will come back and follow You." Bartimaeus instead says: "I am not going to leave You. I will send word to them. It will always be a great joy. But I am not going to part from You. You have given me my eyesight. I consecrate my life to You. Have Pity on the wish of the least of Your servants."

"Come and follow Me. Good will makes all statuses equal, and he only is great who knows how to serve the Lord in a better way."

And Jesus takes to the road again amid the hosannas of the crowd, and Bartimaeus mingles with the people and while going he sings hosannas saying: "I came for a piece of bread and I found the Lord. I was poor, now I am a minister of the holy King. Glory to the Lord and to His Messiah..."