

April 10, 2020

A Gospel Reflection for Good Friday

I am going to be combining elements from chapter 10 and chapter 13 of John's Gospel.

The Gospel for today focuses on Jesus. The first question puts everything that follows into focus. Jesus asks: "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said: "I am he."

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered: "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said."

In chapter 10, after hearing what Jesus said, the Jews took up stones again to stone him, Jesus replied: "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these are you going to stone me?"

The Jews answered: "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you, but for blasphemy: because you, though only a human being, are making yourself God."

Jesus answered: "Is it not written in your law 'I said, you are gods? If those to whom the word of God came were called 'gods'—and the scriptures cannot be annulled—can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said: 'I am God's son?' If I am not doing the works of my Father then do not believe me. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

At that time (in chapter 10) they tried to arrest Jesus again, but he escaped from their hands.

But this time, in the Garden of Gethsemane, he did not escape. They arrested him and took him to Pilate. Pilate questioned him thoroughly. Then Pilate went out to the Jews and told them: "I find no case against him."

Pilate went out again and said to them: "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him."

So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them; "here is the man."

When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. At the place called Golgotha, they crucified him.

This time instead of taking up stones to kill Jesus, they made him carry the cross to his death.

They crucified the Son of God whose whole life was dedicated to doing the good works of his Father.

From the cross, the suffering body of Jesus speaks aloud: "For which of these good works have you crucified me? If I did not do the works of my Father, then do not believe me. But, if you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

The soldiers put a sponge full of wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said: "It is finished."

Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

- Fr. Ed Debono