

Lenten Reflection



Tuesday of Holy Week

April 11, 2017

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And it was night.

The excerpt from John for this day is especially heartrending – we meet a “friend” who betrays his best friend for money; we watch “friends” who allow a betrayer to walk out freely to do a dastardly deed; we listen to a “leader” who proclaims his undying loyalty only to take the coward’s way out to save his own neck. But most poignant of all, we watch, as someone with whom the Master has shared the secrets of His heart, accept one last offering from his Master, and depart, never to return to the community of Disciples. Scripture is eloquent in its simplicity: And it was night.

As I contemplated the darkness which must have enveloped the very human Jesus, I was reminded that this story, starkly relating the betrayal of friends and the loss of someone for whom one genuinely cared, is another indication that Jesus has truly taken on our humanness, and intimately knows our real human experiences. Perhaps, Jesus, above all, understands what it means when “bad things happen to good people.” As we journey together through this Holy Week, let us open our hearts and enter into the pathos, the utter darkness, and the profound silence of the Triduum and the mystery of this suffering Jesus. Possibly, it will help us to believe a little more deeply that Jesus is with us in all of our sorrows, our times of darkness, and our periods of silence and loneliness, and is standing strong beside us. Then, at last, at the end of our Day we, too, will experience the glory of the Resurrection with Jesus, the Christ, about whom John writes.

