

Fr. Romeo Homily
April 14, 2019
Palm Sunday (C)

A Blessed Palm Sunday everyone.

I remember a friend priest once said to me, "I am neither fond of hearing praises nor desire praises for myself". Why? First, he said, because I know that what I do or possess is a gift from God. Second, some people will praise others out of emotions and without any firm grasp of what they are doing. This may seem a judgment on their goodness, but we should not get used to praises lest we become self-entitled or feel superior to others. Somehow there is truth in what he was saying.

The people praised Jesus to high heavens when He entered Jerusalem because they wanted Him to liberate them and build a Kingdom. But all their shouts of praise for Him turned into cries of condemnation when most of them sided with those against Jesus. They did not see the heart of His mission. They expected a triumphant King who would destroy their captors. They expected a Jesus to be a worldly ruler. They wanted a "fighter" but instead got a merciful and compassionate one. Jesus was the opposite of the leader the people waited for. Thus, their "hosannas" became "crucify Him"!

Don't we also see things in the same way sometimes? We have our own expectations about God. When these are not met, we turn our backs on Him. I have friends who left their faith or the church because most of their expectations were not met. I remember a friend came to me and said "Father, I never came back to church because God did not listen to my prayers. He let my younger sister die".

Sometimes we want God to do things for us according to how we want them to happen. But God has His way of doing things for our good. He does not deserve our condemnation.

As we begin the Holy Week, let us look at God's goodness, mercy, and love. That is what we must shout from our hearts.