

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Humble Obedience of Our Suffering Servant All the Way to the Cross.

In Christ Jesus, the King of kings and the Servant of servants, dear fellow redeemed:

Confessing Jesus as the suffering servant for you the sinner, who in your sin is tempted to be lord in your life and even in the lives of your neighbors, this confessing glorifies God the Father. It is the heavenly Father who sent His only begotten Son as that suffering servant for you, me and all sinners. Today we enter upon Holy Week, a week in which we recount the most intense suffering of this holy Servant.

Are you ready to humble yourself today and welcome this humble Servant into your hearts through faith, singing your Hosannas – *Lord save us now*? Or are you satisfied with yourself and find the whole story of this suffering Servant to be a pathetic little tale for weak people to waste their time trying to find a way to assuage their guilt?

Hollywood is known for its depictions of this week and the things that happened to Jesus as a sad story of a poor victim of mean people. They may cast Jesus in humility, who is weak and pitiful. If that is how you know Jesus, you are missing out on the significance of what all took place. Throw out that false image and hear the truth.

The women of Jerusalem gathered along the path to Golgatha who wept for Jesus as He bore His cross were the first recorded to have this wrong “*Hollywoodish*” understanding of what Jesus was about doing. Jesus told them: “Do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children!” Their tears of pity, needed to be turned to tears of repentance over their own sins and tears of joy, trusting that Jesus was going about the work of saving them and their children, you and me.

Jesus was not an unwilling victim of mean people. He was the willing obedient Servant who humbled Himself under the gracious will of the heavenly Father. Remember how Jesus prayed to His Father "*Not My will, but Yours be done*"? It was the Father who desired His Son to be whipped for your sins against His holy Law. It was the Father who desired His Son to be crucified to be punished with your deserved everlasting punishment. It was the Father who desired His Son to die, so that your death might only be a temporary sleep. The Father desired your salvation my fellow sinners; and so did His Son in all His humble obedience

Consider the account concerning the passion of our Lord with that understanding and the power of God's love will work upon you granting you forgiveness, life and salvation. Jesus is true God, who humbled Himself in this world appearing in great lowliness, so proud, arrogant sinners would despise, reject and strike Him with all their hatred.

We would all be stuck in such sinful arrogance, except this humbled servant of the Father has now been exalted and has sent His Spirit to us. We now believe that in all this apparent weakness of the suffering Servant, we have had the mighty work of salvation completed for us for all eternity. By God's grace at work in us, we shall once again go this week with Him all the way to the cross of our salvation and humble ourselves in true repentant faith to the glory of God the Father. Amen.