

March 29, 2015 – Palm Sunday

Active and Passive Jesus

As Jesus ministered to the people for three years in the Galilee region, what kinds of things did he do? *[ask the congregation]*

- Preached
- Cured
- Listened to peoples' problems
- Calmed the seas
- Changed water into wine
- Raised people from the dead
- Prayed
- Travelled from town to town
- Travelled by boat
- Ate
- Performed miracles
- Called disciples

What a very, very **active** man.

Go, go, go!

Do, do, do!

Active - that's the word to describe Jesus in his ministry.

What a contrast with the man we hear about in today's gospel.

They tried him in the Jewish court.

They tried him in the Roman court.

They condemned him to death

They stripped him of his clothes

They scourged him

They crowned him with thorns

They nailed him to the cross

They crucified him
 They thrust a spear in his side
 They took him down from the cross
 They buried him.

What the complete opposite of the Jesus we know from his ministry.
 Here in his *passion* Jesus is so, so *passive*.

Why? Why did he become so *passive*?

Why did he let all those other people do those things to him?

He did it to save all mankind

He did it for the victims of the tornado in Texas
 He did it for the German pilot who crashed his plane into the Alps.
 He did it for all the members of terrorist groups, members of ISIS.
 He did it for the Detroit woman who killed her two children and put
 them in a freezer.

He did it for every person who ever lived.
 He did it for every person who ever will live.

He did it for you.

He did it for me.

He did it for Michelle/Fanny

He did it for Fr. Don

He did it for:

[4:00] you, [name some attendees]

[9:00] you, [name some attendees]

[11:00] you, [name some attendees]

And he did it for his Father.

As Jesus said in the Garden of Gethsemane:

"Not my will be done, but thy will be done!"

Today's reading from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians capsulates
 the whole story so very beautifully.

"He humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death..."

The reading then goes on then to tell us what we should do.

"At the name of Jesus every knee should bend,

And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord ..."

Yes, our challenge is to be like Jesus, to be **active** in ministry.

Let's try being **active**, right here, right now.

Turn to your neighbor and say:

"Neighbor" [all: "Neighbor"]

"Jesus is Lord" [all: "Jesus is Lord"]

"Jesus is our savior." ["Jesus is our savior."]

That's being **active** like Jesus.

Perhaps there also will be some time during this next week that we will be called upon to be **passive** like Jesus.

- Perhaps we will be asked to do something we'd rather not do
- Perhaps someone will be egging us on to get into an argument
- Perhaps someone will cut us off in a conversation
- Perhaps someone will cut us off on the freeway

Can we be **passive**?

Can we accept the results of being **passive**?

Jesus did!

And we are all called to be like Jesus.

Called to be **active** in ministering to others

Called to be **passive** in some of our personal trials with others

Active like Jesus.

Passive like Jesus.

That's our calling.