

The Divine Compassion

Facing

Human Suffering

In the Bible, both the Old and New Testament, We have several events of resurrection. Elijah raised the Son of the Widow in Sydon. And for Jesus there are three resurrection events: The Son of the Widow of Nain in the today's Gospel, the daughter of Jairus, and Lazarus.

What is very clear is that, unusually, Jesus performed these miracles for the sake of the relatives of the dead person. Perhaps, someone can easily say that is self-evident because the person has already died. But in reality this is not true. And we have two proofs that Christ performed this kind of miracle having compassion, not only for the dead person, but for the whole human race.

The first proof is that, He, both before and after, raising someone from death is concerned for the relatives as His discourse shows. The Gospel doesn't draw our attention to any especial discussion with the person He raises to life.

The second proof is taken from the commentary of St. John Chrysostom on the resurrection of Lazarus. He deals with the question, why Jesus wept? Of course anyone can think as the text says, "see how He loved him" (11:36). But St. Chrysostom draws attention to what the Gospel mention: "the Jews said", in order to emphasise that this is not the true cause of Jesus weeping. For when Jesus wept He already knew that He was going to raise him to life.

The truth is that Jesus wept when He saw the huge difference between the two situations of the Human being. That of His creature as he had created it in the beginning, and this the temporary one; that which had as destination that Man should become God, and this actual one of corruption where Man has become mortal and suffers death.

Therefore we can well understand that Jesus facing death, in the case of the resurrection of Lazarus, and of today's Son of this widow, has compassion on the whole of Humankind, which had to endure suffering, leading to death.

And, Jesus facing death, what is the solution He proposes to our miserable human race?

That was His Passion leading to His and our resurrection, both of which the miraculous resurrections, revealed in the Gospel, are their "engagement". Indeed, as He said, we will be as He is after his resurrection.

This is why we need for our salvation, neither a prophet nor a teacher, but someone who can triumph over death, and is ready to give not only some advice or a highly recommended or exceptional teaching, but also his life itself for our sake. Jesus said that it is necessary for the Son of man to go to his passion.

In fact, that is what happened, when Jesus confronts our pain and His beloved creature suffering, He gives His life for our redemption. God facing our suffering suffers, and delivers Himself completely for our everlasting happiness.

Our suffering is caused by our sin, and our sin cost Jesus' life, and His passion. God is Love, and love cannot bear the suffering of the beloved, and there is not a greater love than someone laying down his life for the sake of whom he loves.

We believe deeply that Christ will raise us and give all of us to The Father as He gave this Son to his mother in today's gospel.