



## Sermon

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When I was young, and I did or said something not so intelligent, my dad would always say, “Just because you are my son, does not mean you are bright.” I remember when I was in seminary, we had Spanish masses every Wednesday. At the end of the Spanish Eucharist, We all said, *Gracias A Dios*. Being that I majored in Latin American Studies, I was nearly fluent in Spanish when I graduated. It took me only until my fourth year to realize that we were saying, *Thanks be to God*. For up to then, I thought I we were saying, *Thanks. Goodbye*. Whoops! I had another one of those brilliant moments with this passage on Monday of this week. We recite in our liturgy every Sunday, “Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; therefore, let us keep the feast.”

I have always associated Jesus as fulfilling the Passover feast, but I did not think about in scripture, during the transfiguration of the Lord, the conversation

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was about Jesus' departure (in Greek, *Exodos*). Wait a minute. Jesus, on the Cross, departed. Last Sunday, our passage spoke about how God was going to destroy Israel and choose another people for Himself, which is us. The exodus of Jesus is to die. The promised land is heaven.

In Egypt, before Moses and God's people left, there were the ten plagues or the *Plagues of the Tribulation*. It is interesting to see how the treatment of Jesus, the hardness of hearts parallels the hardness of the heart of Pharaoh, the leader of Egypt. We read in Luke's passage this morning about the Passover feast Jesus was celebrating, followed by His trials, His tribulation, His hour.

Luke shows Jesus as always calm and in control. We see the interplay of the sword and the healing, that Jesus was still compassionate, from the start of the Passover onward. He showed a self-sacrificing love and the posture of a servant. We notice some ordering differences and a toning down of people and the agony of Jesus. The disciples are the ones showing that they could not stay awake from their grief.

Jesus then went on two trials. First with Pilate, who found Him innocent of the charges and sent Him to Herod because Jesus was a Galilean. Herod, who despised Jesus, found Him innocent and dressed Him up and mocked Him, only to send Him back to Pilate. Pilate was going to release Him, but did not do so because of the crowd. Fearful of them, he gave them a choice, and the crowd chose to free the guilty man.

The tone of the crowd changes when Jesus hangs on the cross. Fascinating how, like the plague in Egypt, darkness loomed, then the death of the first born, God's Son. This was the time for our salvation; this was the time for our Exodus.

These past few weeks, I have been saddened by many deaths and illnesses that were just not seemingly natural. Then the word, departure, the exodus.

It is interesting that this time, the promised land is beyond the reach of anything this world can do to corrupt it. Jesus leads us in our Exodus from this world to the next. We live in times which are the tribulations (plagues) for us, the Passover Feast and the Resurrection. At the Passover table, Jesus says remember, *Anamnesis*: we are in the moment of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

The cross for us, is our way, our journey to the promised land. The Cross is our Exodus. Jesus is the true Son, and we will follow His light. AMEN.

Fr. Jeff +