



HOLY WEEK MEDITATIONS: **Monday**

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalms 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

In Holy Week we remember the inexorable march to the cross. We place ourselves next to Jesus as he walks to Golgatha. Why? Because we know Jesus best in his passion; because we are called to walk that same road; because in this dark world Jesus is the only true light.

The readings for today begin with an amazing passage. Hundreds of years before Jesus walked the sands of Galilee, the Father pulled back the veil and gave Isaiah a vision unlike any other in Scripture. Isaiah records the "Servant Songs," which describe a mysterious figure. These visions don't just tell us about the future of Israel or the church. They are not a list of blessings or woes, warnings or consolations. They are fascinating, precious, and rare for they tell us about the mission and the person of Jesus, the Messiah.

The person we find here delights the Father, and you can hear the delight in God's voice when he addresses Jesus in 42:5-9 as one who brings justice to the ends of the earth, who is himself the covenant, the peace treaty between us and God.

God's delight is not just in Jesus' mission, but in who he is. He "will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street," and that's the Jesus we see in the gospels, one who often told people *not* to tell of his wondrous deeds for fear they would carry him off.

"A bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench." Centuries later Jesus would walk past two crushed, heart-broken parents, lean over the unmoving body of their daughter, and quietly say *talitha kour*, "arise, lamb." When you are heartbroken this week by the broken, assailed world, remember Jesus, who whispers in your ear, "arise, lamb."

-Tim Collins