

First Reflection for WYD2002

3/20/2002

The Passover of Christ

Opening Song: The Summon (see annex 1)

Opening prayer:

Lord Jesus, you take it upon yourself out of your love for us to be the “salt” and the “light” for us in our world and time. You have continued to call upon us to earnestly follow your footsteps to be the “salt” and “light” of our time.

Lord, let us feel the passion that you have for us.

Let us feel your desire for uniting with God the Father.

Let us feel your hope for the salvation of mankind.

Please fill our heart with your passion.

Please fill our heart with your desire for God.

Please fill us with your hope.

Introduction to the topic:

The Passover of Jesus begins with His entry into Jerusalem, where He will freely accept to give up his life for each one of us in order to save us. Through the death and the resurrection, Jesus himself is the sacrifice, perfect to reconcile us with God.

Jesus was killed when He was only 33. He died a young person. His death was not the end but the starting point for us all for He called each one of us to be the salt and the light. Salt at the time of Jesus had a more important use than just a flavor enhancer or a food preservative. It was used to start a fire. As “salt” and “light” we were thus called to be the catalyst of the Good News.

At the start He called on 12 persons. Among them Peter was probably the oldest, and he died at the year of 67 AD. So when he heard the call, he was probably in his late thirties, practically a young person. John was probably the youngest of the 12, and he probably in his late twenties. All the apostles were young when they heeded the call from Jesus to follow Him. **Jesus entrusted the salvation of humanity into the hands of 11 young persons.** They were called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the word. They were called to change the world, and they did change the world with the Good News.

This journey in July is the chance for us, the young people of our time, to heed the call from Jesus to carry on the mission that Jesus started, to be the “salt” and the “light,” to be witness to Christ.

Let’s recall and reflect on the 7 events at the end of the life of Jesus.

Reflection time:

A reflection time for each event should not last more than 10 minutes. In 10 minutes we want to cover 3 steps: 1) Grace to ask for, 2) recall the event and reflection time 3) and closing prayer. Keep this in mind – A time for reflection is a time to pray as well.

Setting: *Light a big candle – light out – soft music. Seven (7) small candles form a circle around the big candle. Each small candle will be lit up by one person who was assigned to do the reflection at their turn.*

THE ENTRY OF JESUS INTO JERUSALEM (Mt 21:1-11)

HOSSANA they proclaim as he enter to the temple but later on they shout “NAIL HIM

ON THE CROSS”. *Focus on how we sang his name when we receive his graces and how we turn our back to him when we are suffering and heavy heart to lift ourselves up to him.*

THE LESSON (Jn 13:1–15)

Washing of the feet – The lesson of God’s love to serve his friends. *Focus on all the actions we did to one another in His name and how do they affect our life and be thankful.*

THE PRAYER (Jn 17:11b-19)

Prayer of the unity – Center on the point of abiding in Him as he abiding in His Father. *Focus on How I can be unite with Him in prayer and how does prayer can help me to understand the love of God more* **(After this reflection –Sing hymn Tâm Tình Ca 3)**

THE QUESTION (Mt 26:57-68, Mt 27:11-14)

Before the high priest and Pilate – Who are you? *Focus on how do we usually looking at God and who is God really in my life?*

THE ANSWER (same as above)

The silence of Jesus. *Focus on how Jesus chooses to be in silence before the accusation and how we were angry before the accusation.*

THE CROSS (Mt 27:32-44)

His cross and our cross. *Focus on how we can be the follower of Christ in our daily life and make it a witness to the world.* **(After this reflection – Play the song I WILL CARRY YOU)**

THE SILENCE OF THE TOMB (Mt 27:62-66, 28:1-8)

The worry of his enemies and the hope of his disciples. *Focus on what is my worry to be the witness to God but remember this: **God does not care what is our capacity but He needs our available to accomplish his mission today in the world.***

THE JOY (Lk 24:13-32)

Emmaus – The journey of sadness and the change to joyful. *Focus on how should we live in a joyful way to express that CHRIST IS RISEN.*

Sharing time: Break into small groups to share and summary the insight of the group.

1. From the events of the Passover of Christ, what makes you understand of His love for you?
2. How would you be prepared and get ready to be His witness?

Prayer time: Shimurim – *Play soft background music, create the atmosphere to help participant to relax and to be unite in prayer – ask participation to put themselves in front of the Lord (at the moment He has to choose to let go or to go on with his mission) in the garden of Olive. Have the spirit of communion with Him on his mission. Say a short prayer asking for grace to be in communion with Him. Read slowly the text on the next page – Pause between the paragraph if need, and follow with personal prayers in silence or out loud so people can share your prayer.*

To conclude the prayer session – say Our Father.

Sing the Summon again to close the reflection session.

Shimurim

The Night of Conscious Watching

It was at the end of four hundred and thirty years, and it was on that very day that all the legions of God left the land of Egypt. It is a **night of conscious watching of God** to take them out of the land of Egypt, this was the night of God; a conscious watching for all the children of Israel for their generation. (Ex. 12: 41-42)

Shimurin, hard to translate. The word **Shimurin** is only use in this verse twice. We could translate it as **The night of Conscious watching of God**.

I have no evidence to say or wonder about the night that Jesus was praying in the garden of Gethsemane, the night before He died. It was the eve of Passover, and it was the night when the Jews celebrate what the Torah remembers as **Shimurim** – the night of conscious watching of God.

Before He spent time in praying alone, Jesus begged his closest friends to stay awake with Him and watch Him before He surrendered to His betrayer : ***‘Could you not watching with me one hour?’*** (Mk 14:37).

Is it possible that Jesus was remembering this night like the night when God kept vigil over His children? I don't know... I wonder... All that I can do now is to spend sometime with Him... in silence and in communion before the process begins. It is the time of Salvation...

I will think of this **Shimurim** as I keep vigil with Jesus – to watch and to pray. May be that would help me to sense a little about the night of conscious watching of God, to see His Beloved Son moved toward the Cross... Perhaps, I will understand more how God watching us from generation from generation, until now.