

Palm Sunday Cycle A
March 28, 1999
By Father Charles Bowes
Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11
The Passion of the Lord
Matthew 26:14-27:66

Jesus makes the world harder to see.

A great teacher, perhaps the greatest I ever had, began his class telling us students, “You should think twice about taking this course. If you take it, you will never see the world the same way again – it will be more difficult to see.”

...And he was right...through his eyes we were able to see design and where design was lacking not only in works of art but on street corners and on billboards and along the by-ways and roads we traveled. The lives of those who took that course were changed. Forever.

Jesus does that. Jesus defies neat summaries. In spite of several thousand years of trying to capture the final truth about him, he remains illusive. He summons us to wonder about all the details of his life. Any single detail is a good place to begin imagining, so long as we are not in a hurry to be done with him and “get to the meaning.”

Looking at and listening to Jesus does make the world around us harder to see. It is a little more difficult to look through the faces of the homeless when one sees in them the face of the Crucified. It is a little more difficult to support punitive measures against criminals when one sees the thief on whom he

had pity as he died. And to maintain our favorite prejudices when we recall that he ministered to lepers, harlots, and traitors.

Perhaps, for us this Holy Week, it would be best to try and forget the lessons we have learned *about* Jesus and try to look and listen *at* and *to* him. Jesus will resist our intelligence and make the visible a little harder to see. And the details of his life and words, we find details of our lives and words being recast into something that is, quite literally, beyond imagining. And that is the place where we need to be this last week of Lent as we journey into Easter.

**Jesus makes the world
harder to see.**