

GOOD FRIDAY (A-2) (translation) **God really knows us.**

“We do not have a high priest that knows not our weakness, but rather one who’s been tested in all things ours.” This should console us, because there is nothing that Jesus has not felt that we have.

Who has not felt abandoned, betrayed, hurt, or made fun of? Or the loss of something dear, whether a person or pet? Who has not felt the pain of being falsely accused? We have all felt this and so did Jesus.

Nevertheless, Jesus did not react as we tend to do. He, once he had accepted his Father’s cup, once he had said, “Not my will but thine be done,” he left all negative feelings and accepted what was to come in peace. He almost embraced it.

I had a talk with a husband who had just lost his wife of 22 year. How he loved her! He was angry and agitated with God for being unjust. He showed frustration, rage, and desperation. When he finished his story, he said, “I am leaving the faith. I no longer believe that God is just and will never believe it ever again.”

I asked, “Just before dying, was she at peace or perturbed?” “At peace.” “Was she a woman of great faith or a non-believer?” “Of great faith.” “Well, why don’t you return to the scene right before she died and think about the connection between her faith and her peace?”

That is what Jesus tells us when we feel angry with life. He says, “I know you in everything. I’ve felt what you have. Learn from me. If I accepted my Father’s cup, can’t you receive mine? You will feel great peace.” That is Good Friday’s message. “Come to me all you who are weary and heavy-burdened, and I will give you rest.” Rest is peaceful.

Let us rest in the Lord day & night. Let us return to Christ’s scenes & the scenes of our losses and deaths. Let us be healed by them. That way we can celebrate life with joy tomorrow at the Vigil of the Resurrection or our Lord. We will feel the peace that only God can give.