

## **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – 04/10/22**

“Now two others, both criminals, were led away with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left.”

“Life is a difficult business. It's fatal and it's full of suffering and it's full of betrayal and malevolence. There is nothing about it that's trivial. It's all profound.”

These are the words of a very popular Canadian psychologist and philosopher by the name of Dr. Jordan Peterson.

He continues, “In order to find your way through all of that (meaning life), you need to develop a relationship that's profound. And you can! You have that capacity. And what could be more profound than the truth? What would you rather have on your side?”

“There is no shortage of deadwood to burn off and there's no shortage of pain when the deadwood burns off. And that's what makes people afraid of the truth.”

“What's the decision that you make? So you decide to believe....it's a risk...an existential risk....an act of faith.”

“You believe that the truth can set you free. You believe that people have an intrinsic divinity about their soul. You decide that you're going to live in that manner and then everything about yourself that isn't worthy of that goal must die. And that might be almost everything that you are.”

“That's a terrible thing to contemplate. The only thing that's worse is the alternative. The alternative is the sorts of hells that we manage to produce around us.”

He concludes, "The truth will destroy everything that isn't worthy in you so you cling to what you shouldn't be, partly out of pride and partly out of ignorance and partly out of laziness."

And I might add, partly out of fear.

Dr. Peterson said, "You need to develop a relationship that's profound. And you can! You have that capacity. And what could be more profound than the truth? What would you rather have on your side?"

But you see the truth isn't something. Truth is someone and it's quite possible that even Dr. Peterson himself hasn't quite made that full leap of faith yet either because he, of all people, knows just how serious this decision is.

Many people haven't because it's scary to think that everything we cling to will be subject to the scrutiny of Truth which is not something but someone – Jesus Christ – who is totally outside of our control. We might be able to manipulate some things but not someone, especially not this someone.

But the Lord will push us to this limit because there is no security outside of Him.

In the gospel today, there were two thieves crucified on either side of Jesus. They were both pushed to the very limits of their humanity by God for one purpose only – their salvation.

"Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, 'Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us.' The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, 'Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal.'"

“Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ He replied to him, ‘Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.’”

Both thieves, pushed to their limits, one refused to let go, the other, the good thief, gave it all to Jesus. And we know what happened to him.

What are we clinging to? To paraphrase Dr. Peterson, we cling to what we shouldn't be, partly out of pride, partly out of ignorance, partly out of laziness and partly out of fear. What are we waiting for? What is holding us back?

We really need to develop a relationship that's profound. And we can! We have that capacity because Jesus breathed it into us when he breathed his last. And what could be more profound than an unconditional relationship with he who is Truth? Who would you rather have on your side?

“It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon...Jesus cried out in a loud voice, Father, into your hands I commend my spirit; and when he had said this he breathed his last.”

If we believe this then everything about our lives must change. We can no longer hold anything back from him who held nothing back from us. He gave us his very last breath. Jesus Christ, Truth incarnate, will destroy everything that isn't worthy in us in order to bring us to paradise.

The hour of Mercy is upon us! That hour of Mercy is now! Now is the time to let go and commend our whole selves into the hands of Jesus Christ – Truth Incarnate.