

Homily
Friday of the 5th week of Lent
March 31, 2023

We're here. We've almost made it. Sunday begins Holy Week. I feel like I've run a sprint for nearly forty days and I can see the tape at the finish line. How are you doing?

It's been a struggle, knowing the things I said I'd do and not do, the things I'd embrace or eschew. I could have done better. I did okay. I'm certainly no saint, but I am just an ordinary sinner, I hope. Only God can judge that.

Jesus gives us a great message today. As He is about to be stoned, He says to the Jews, "If I do not perform my Father's works, do not believe me; but if I perform them, even if you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may realize and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." How does this apply to us today? How can we listen and look at the Words and Actions of Jesus and take away encouragement and strength?

We are a reflection of God, just as Jesus is in His Father and the Father is in Jesus. We are in Jesus and He is in us. If we perform good works, even if the people around us do not believe what we say, they can certainly look at our deeds. By our deeds, we are known. By our love, we are known. Jesus is telling us as much as He is telling the Jews that if the works are good, then we are good and God is in us. This strengthens us. We are encouraged by this.

Even if we have fallen short of our Lenten promises, even if we have failed miserably over and over, we know that by coming here, participating in Mass, celebrating this Sacrament, receiving our Lord and Savior, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, we are made whole. We are made one with Him and with each other. That is the message in today's Gospel. That is the message of Lent. That is the message of Holy Week. In Jesus, we are saved, we are treasured, we are loved.