

Lent devotions

READ:

Mark 15:16-32 (click to open link)

REFLECT:

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me."

A phrase from my childhood. A phrase I can remember uttering in my mind many times. These days, the phrase has changed somewhat because, I now know that, while "sticks and stones may break my bones," words... words can hurt more than anything.

I often wonder what went through Jesus' mind while He was being openly mocked and ridiculed. How He felt as the same people whom days earlier shouted His praise, now screamed words full of hatred toward him. Given the same situation, most of us would shout back. Most of us would spit out words in our defense. But, Jesus...Jesus remained silent. Despite never being at a loss for words before...when everything is on the line...Jesus remains...silent.

Hebrews 12:2 puts it this way: "For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame."

Why? Because sometimes, the best way to fight back. The best way to defend ourselves is to simply remain silent. He knew that, no matter what He said, no matter what words He used, it would not change how they felt about Him. And, more importantly, it would not change...who He is.

Jesus took our sin. He willingly assumed our sin, and the shame that accompanied it. His silence – a lesson to us. We have nothing to prove to the world. Jesus did that for us. And, because He took the shame, we, too, can find power in silence. We, too, can choose to "fight back" when those we love mock and ridicule us. There is power in love. There is power in silence. A power only He can give us.

RESPOND:

- Has there ever been a time when you wished you had remained silent when being mocked/ridiculed by others?
- How can remaining silent bring you closer to Jesus?
- How can your silence help you understand the sacrifice Jesus made for you?