



*Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, the day Our Lord triumphantly entered Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. There was a great, joyous crowd around Him that day. They waved palms and shouted, “**Hosanna,**” declaring Him their king and long-awaited Messiah. Five days later, it would be Good Friday, and the joyous crowd that had praised Jesus, would become a bloodthirsty crowd. This time, they’d waved their fists, shouting, “**Crucify Him!**” What a fickle crowd! They were so easily misled by their leaders. Are we that gullible? Can we be misled by our leaders? Are our core-values and beliefs flexible or even negotiable? For instance, are we ‘fickle’ when it comes to abortion? Is one **form** of abortion ‘o.k.’ because it seems less cruel than some other **form** of abortion? What if it’s performed ‘**earlier**’ rather than ‘**later**?’ Regardless of the **form** or **time** of the abortion, what about the baby’s soul? If we believe that God infuses a soul at the moment of conception (when else with any certainty; playing Russian roulette with a baby’s life/soul--?), how could any such act be moral? And since when do ‘**circumstances**’ of a particular pregnancy affect the ‘**morality**’ of an abortion? Since when does one wrong act justify a second wrong act? Some things ought **not** be ‘flexible’ or negotiable! For example, this should always be unchanging: the ‘end’ **never** justifies the ‘means.’ Of all the days of our lives, we do not want to be with the wrong, ‘fickle’ crowd on Judgment Day!*

*It is precisely because of Good Friday that we don’t have to be afraid of Judgment Day. He died so sins could be **forgiven**. Lent has been a time to journey-inward, closer to Jesus. If there are moral questions in our life that need addressed, there is no better time than now, this Lent, to deal with such things and be reconciled. Christ is the Second Adam. He came to reconcile the world to His Father. On Golgotha Hill, Christ made the Father an offer He (the Father) could not refuse. He (Christ) set up a Church, gave us the Sacraments, personally washed feet, and then died on a cross. Lent is a special, holy time to journey-inward.*

Recall the episode in Our Lord’s life when He refused to condemn a woman caught in adultery -- because she was sorry. Her accusers were silent, for good reason. Such example from Jesus instructs me to be compassionate and understanding, as was He. I urge you to take advantage of the Lord’s wonderful Sacrament of Reconciliation, our direct link to Calvary. (Personally, I don’t care how long you may have been away. We priests don’t work on commission!)

(If interested, call about ‘Bucket Brigade’ info.) Your Vicar, fr. ‘t.’