

Homily for Good Friday, April 14, 2017

It's easy to feel cynical in our world. Just look at the state of politics. Look at the shenanigans of some of the big corporations. It's easy to feel cynical in our world. But, there's nothing new about that. The cynicism of Pontius Pilate stands out in the passion reading that we just heard, when he says to Jesus:

"What is truth?"

That's a good question, if asked in sincerity, in a desire to learn. But, that does not appear to be the case with Pilate. He asks the question as a way to dismiss Jesus' talk about truth. He does not wait for Jesus to give an answer, but instead moves on, his mind already made up.

"What is truth?" Pilate asks. Well, the truth is standing right in front of him. Jesus is truth incarnate. When Jesus opens his mouth, God speaks.

But the cynicism of Pilate prevents him from hearing the truth. It prevents Pilate from seeing who Jesus really is. It blinds Pilate to the glory that will shine from the cross.

What does the truth say to us? If the sight of human suffering makes us feel cynical, then the incarnate truth of God answers us and says: "Look, I know all about suffering. I died for you on the cross."

If the thought of human greed and hatred makes us feel cynical about the human race, then once again the incarnate truth of God answers us and says: "I know all about human sin. After all, it was for your sins that I died. Yes, I died because of the weakness of Pilate, and because of the jealousy of my enemies. But, I also died because of your sins, and the sins of all humanity."

The truth has much to tell us, if only we will listen. And the truth speaks to us, above all, from the cross of Jesus Christ.