

Passion is soon to enter into His glory. Notwithstanding all this, He is suffering. He suffers as never creature suffered nor will suffer, and, in spite of His sufferings almost infinite, He is thinking not of relief, but only of the sad fate of God's people. He might have abandoned this nation to its unhappy fate. But no, His Heart would save it, and under the weight of the Cross, at the moment when He was leaving the marks of His falls and His blood on the road to Calvary, in the midst of all kinds of mockery, brutality, pains, and outrages, He finds sufficient strength of soul, sufficient tenderness, to make a last and supreme appeal to this people, about to fall under the avenging arm of God's justice.

It is because Jesus loves souls. But all His tenderness was useless. Hearts became more hardened, instead of opening to His love. There remained to Him but one resource, and that was to inspire them with fear. It was for this end that He laid under the eyes of the Jews the severity of the divine judgment, the horror of its chastisements, the torments of time and those of eternity.

And these women who had had the courage to brave the injuries of His enemies and to come to offer Him the homage of their compassion, He invests with the beautiful mission of repeating, first to the Jews and afterward to all Christian generations, this lesson, so important for the salvation of souls. This was their recompense.

And what a lesson ! The whole nature of Redemption is comprehended in this truth. It is not enough to weep over the sorrow of Christ. We must, first and above all, reserve our tears for sin, which is the cause of His Passion and death. And if Jesus demands tears for the pardon of our faults, He Himself shed His Blood !

Jesus abides in the Blessed Sacrament only to take care of us, to comfort us with looks of love and words of salvation. How often from the depths of His Eucharistic retreat has He not repeated to sinful souls the same menaces : "*If they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry ?*" How often has He not struck sinners with holy terror, thus leading them to repentance ! What remorse have I not sometimes felt after Communion ! How often, when upon the point of dragging Him to death and crucifying Him, has He not attracted me to contrition, reconciliation, pardon, and life !