

The Passion of Christ

Many people are asking today, “What is the hype?” I don’t need Jesus in my life. Young people particularly are finding it difficult to follow a Jesus who seems so far away. They are puzzled and wonder what the interest is in someone who not only lived more than two thousand years ago, but died almost two thousand years ago. People wonder why we are so excited about Jesus. Why do we need Him? Why did He come? Why did He die? And why should we bother to find Him: Our challenge is to bring Jesus closer to us. To bring Jesus to the forefront of all we do. To see Jesus in the poor and to serve as Jesus did.

I must admit that after seeing the movie, “The Passion of Christ” I was asking some of those questions. I kept asking myself, “Why did you die? And why did you die so violently? You could have called on ten thousand Angels to save you. Our loving Father would have saved you in a blink. Why, Why, Why?”

The movie made me question, even though I knew the answers. It also made me repent for everything in my entire life and how truly humble and unworthy I was. I came to the awesome conclusion that he died for me. I always knew that, but now I lived the reality that even if I was the only person on earth, He would have died for me. Every drop of His blood, (and there were gallons) every painful breath He took was for me. How can I ever be the same again? (If a movie is so intense that I do not eat the popcorn, you can be sure it was mesmerizing.) I was paralyzed at the end of the film. It was so quiet, I could hear people breathing. What an experience.

My experience was a relationship. I could not say I liked the movie, or I hated the movie and I couldn’t say I loved the movie. It was not a movie to me. It truly was an experience and a relationship. A relationship with the reality of Jesus. He was a man. He felt pain, like me. His mother was like me. She wept. She cared for His every movement. She kissed His bleeding body as any mother would. I truly felt this tremendous relationship with my family, my heavenly family. Sometimes I was the mother and wept bitterly with Mary. Then I was Jesus and felt every stroke of the cane, whip and bludgeon. I was Peter who denied my Lord and I was even the soldiers who mocked, bullied and tortured Jesus and Yes I condemned Him as well.

It made me realize that my Christianity was not about rules. It was about truly loving someone and being part of a relationship. It made me realize that I need and everyone needs that relationship with God. It is not a feeling or a fad. It is a truly deep relationship with a Father and mother and a brother. And this family loves us more than we could even imagine and we need this relationship so that we can love others. We need it to serve.

A.C.T.S = Adoration: Praising God for who He is and what He has done. Confession: Asking God’s forgiveness for something we have done wrong. Thanksgiving: Thanking God for His blessings, such as health, family, friends etc. Supplication: Praying for ourselves, our friends, our enemies and others.

Go forth my dear Vincentians to love and serve the Lord in the poor A.S.A.P. (Always say a prayer). Love and serve as Christ in His great Passion for us.