

Palm / Passion Sunday!

Last **Saturday morning**, I went to see and hear the great Catholic Evangelist, **Matthew Kelly** speak at **Prince of Peace Church** in Hoover.
Some of you were there ... oh, how I wish all of you could have been there.

He spoke to 1200 people for **2-1/2 hours** and never used a note.
But in listening to him, I ended up with 14 pages of notes!

In speaking about the unique gifts that God gives us he pointed out that we need to:
put them into context ... to hold them up side by side with other things ...
to see their true value.

He said, imagine you're the best football player in the world, making more money than any other player. That would be mighty outstanding ... wouldn't it?
And then your **5 yr. old son gets cancer.**

By itself ... **fame and fortune** seems pretty great ...
but compared to the wellness of your son ... it dwindles in importance.

Most Dads would be willing to trade all their wealth if it would remedy their son.

That's what love does.

It helps us put things in context and places the highest priority on wellness and life.

And that's **the very action** that we will celebrate this Holy Week ... where ...
the great love of God the Father for us, His Children,
was manifested in Him offering up His Son to death ... so that we might have life.

Yes, God gave us everything when He gave us His Son!

And, **Jesus gave up everything** when He came among us as a man.

St. Paul describes this in our **Second Reading** from **Philippians**, saying:

Though he was in the form of God,
Jesus did not deem equality with God
something to be grasped at.

Rather, he emptied himself
And took the form of a slave,
being born in the likeness of men.

He was known to be of human estate,
and it was thus that he humbled himself,
obediently accepting even death,
death on a cross!

Jesus wasn't created in the image and likeness of God as we were ...
Jesus wasn't created at all ... He always was and always will be ... Jesus is God!

Yet, He chose to become a man ...
and in doing so He emptied himself of
all the benefits He had as God.

He submitted to human limitations.
He knew hunger, thirst, tiredness and pain.
He relied on prayer to discern His Father's will.
He was born into a poor, simple family, worked for a living and owned very little.

Yes, Jesus had everything and **He** gave up everything ... and He did it ... for us!

He came from Heaven to Earth ... so that we could go from Earth to Heaven.

He was hated so that we would know love.

He was condemned so that we could be pardoned.

He was put to death so that we might have Eternal Life.

In every way He emptied Himself so that we could be filled.

Why would He do this?

For the same reason a wealthy Quarterback
would spend everything he had ... to save his son.

The reason ... is Love.

Jesus loves us.
He loves us to death!

With **the crucified image of our Savior** hidden from view,
and **the Passion narrative** fresh in your mind ...
please close your eyes & take the next 3 minutes to reflect on
how loved we are by God ...
that **He** would empty Himself so that we might have Life with Him.