

Friday 5th of Lent

Gospel text (Jn 10,31-42): The Jews then picked up stones to throw at him; so Jesus said, «I have openly done many good works among you which the Father gave me to do. For which of these do you stone me?». The Jews answered, «We are not stoning you for doing a good work but for insulting God; you are only a man and you make yourself God» (...). Many people came to him and said, «John showed no miraculous signs, but he spoke of this man and everything he said was true». And many became believers in that place.

"I am the Son of God". Initial reactions in Jerusalem

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, on the verge of the Holy week, John plunges us into a pre-Easter setting. In the early stages of Jesus' ministry, the Temple authorities had shown little interest in the figure of Jesus or in the movement that formed around Him.

The situation changed on Palm Sunday: the Messianic homage paid to Jesus Christ on His entrance into Jerusalem; the cleansing of the Temple with the interpretation He gave to it, which seemed to indicate the end of the Temple altogether and a radical change in the cult; Jesus' teaching in the Temple, from which there emerged a claim to full authority; the miracles He worked publicly and the growing multitude that gathered around Him... were facts that could no longer be ignored.

—John recounts more in detail a session of the Sanhedrin —before Palm Sunday— to shape an eventual decision on the "case" of Jesus (cf. 11:47-53). The immediate reason was the popular movement generated by the raising of Lazarus. O Jesus! I must confess you are God!