

One Solitary Life

As we enter the period of Lent, a season which reflects the Lord's praying and fasting, Darren Sylvester ruminates on how one man, whose own life was solitary, has had, and will continue to have, an overwhelming effect on the lives of other people.

Here is a young man, born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village, worked as a carpenter until he was thirty and then for three years he became a preacher. He never wrote a book, held an office, owned a home, had a family, went to college, put his foot inside a big City; in fact, he never travelled more than 200 miles from the place where he was born, he never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness and had no credentials but himself.

While he was still a young man the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away and he was turned over to his enemies to face, what can only be termed, as a mockery of a trial. He was nailed to the cross between two thieves and while he was dying his executioners gambled for the only piece of property that he had on earth, namely his coat. When he was dead he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race. It is perfectly permissible for me to articulate the view that for all the Armies that have ever marched, all the Navies that have ever sailed, all the Parliamentarians that have ever sat and all of the Monarchs that have ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as did that ONE SOLITARY LIFE.

I wish all DONA members and readers of this article a very happy Easter 2003. Furthermore, during the period of Lent let us all try our utmost to engage in regular prayer and fasting (whatever form it may take) – the Prophet Isaiah tells us that works of charity are forms of fasting such as *“sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own”*. [Isaiah.58:7]. Finally, let us always keep the notion that fasting asks us to ‘live simply, in order that others may simply live’ at the forefront of our minds.

May the peace and love of Christ be with you and your families during this Easter season

Darren Sylvester is the projects officer of the DONA