

*“God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.” Rom 5:8*

I offer as a reflection today, the words of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen from his work titled, “The Life of Christ:”

Our Lord used many pulpits during His public life, such as Peter’s [boat] pushed into the sea, the mountaintop, the streets of Tyre and Sidon, the temple, the country road near a cemetery, and a banquet hall. But all faded into insignificance compared to the pulpit which He mounted now — the pulpit of the Cross. It was lifted slowly off the ground, wavered in midair for a moment, tearing and lacerating His Sacred Flesh; then suddenly with a deep thud that seemed to shake even hell itself, it sank into the pit prepared for it. Our Lord had mounted His pulpit for the last time.

Like all [great speakers,] He overlooked His audience. Far off, in Jerusalem, He could see the gilded roof of the temple, reflecting its rays against the sun which was soon to hide its face in shame. Here and there on temple walls He could catch a glimpse of those who were straining their eyes to see Him Whom the darkness knew not. At the edge of the crowd were timid followers, ready to flee in case of danger; there, too, were the executioners getting their dice ready to shake for His garments. Close to the Cross was the only Apostle present, John, whose face was like a cast moulded out of love; Magdalen was there too, like a broken flower, a wounded thing. But foremost among all — God pity her! — was His own mother. Mary. Magdalen. John; innocence, penitence, and priesthood; the three types of souls forever to be found beneath the Cross of Christ.

*Life of Christ, Fulton J. Sheen. pp. 539-540.*

*“In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.” 1 John 4:10*