

**GOSPEL PEARLS**

## Sharing Jesus' sufferings

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*The disciples of John approached Jesus and said,  
"Why do we and the Pharisees fast much,  
but your disciples do not fast?"  
Jesus answered them, "Can the wedding guests mourn  
as long as the bridegroom is with them?  
The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them,  
and then they will fast." (Mt 9:14-15)*

A devout life, with its acts such as fasting, is not an end in itself but our sacrifices serve to participate in the sufferings of Jesus by consoling Him with our small offerings. At least in Lent, let us strive to live our religious practices well and not as an empty routine.