

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Book of Prophet Hosea (*Hosea 11:3-4*)

It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

Reflection – The Greatest Miscarriage of Justice

God's wondrous work of creation. When God finished His work of creation, He looked at His work and pronounced them very good (cf. Genesis 1:31). Out of love God created us for God is love (cf. 1 John 4:8). He made us to be part of His family with great pleasure (cf. Ephesians 1:5). Through His infinite power and wisdom, God made us in His image, to be like Him. With our intellect we can reason and think. With our heart we can love and feel. With our soul whose life is the sanctifying grace of God, we are made eternal to last forever. With our freewill we can choose how to lead our lives. Thus, we are not forced to be slaves of God though we are commanded to make holy love the foundation of every aspect of our life (cf. Matthew 22:37-39). As we are gifted with freewill, God subjects each and every one of His children to trials and testing in order to strengthen our faith in and love for Him. As gold is purified through fire, the children of God are purified through trials and testing. *The Lord disciplines the one He loves, and He chastens every one He accepts as His son (Hebrews 12:6).*

God's greater work of redemption. God's work of creation is marvellous in our eyes. But still greater is His work of redemption. Though God commanded our father in faith, Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, God was only testing the faith of Abraham. God spared Isaac but did not spare His only Son, Jesus whom He sent to earth to be borne incarnate of the Blessed Virgin Mary so that He could die as atonement for the sins of all people. God gives His all and personally bears the pain of our sins when He sent Jesus as our personal Saviour. *You have burdened Me with your sins and wearied Me with your offenses (Isaiah 43:24).* Though one drop of Precious Blood from Jesus would have sufficed to make atonement for all the sins of the world, God the Father allows Jesus to take on the maximum suffering a human body can endure (cf. St. Lawrence Justinian). In putting Jesus through such a trial, God the Father presents us with a model in which to follow so that we may be true children of God, and never wander far from the path of truth which leads to Himself at the end of our earthly pilgrimage.

God's unremitting love and mercy. No matter how badly we behave, God forgives us whenever we seek forgiveness from Him sincerely. He warns us though that if we do not forgive others, our sins will not be forgiven (cf. Matthew 18:35). The Lord promises us: *“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.” (Isaiah 1:18).* This promise is fulfilled when Jesus, immediately after His resurrection, gave to His apostles the power to forgive sins (cf. John 20:22-23). Thus, the Sacrament of Reconciliation was instituted, and in the Confessional Jesus' Precious Blood and Water that flowed from His Side on the first Good Friday continue to flow to wash away repented sins and iniquities in continuing unseen miracles of mercy and love of God.

God's abiding presence. A valid proof of genuine love is the willingness of the person to spend time with the loved one. Jesus promises to be with us till the end of time (cf. Matthew 28:20). There are many ways in which Jesus is present to us. He is present in the hearts of all souls who are in the state of sanctifying grace. He is present in the Scripture, in the Sacraments, where two or three are gathered in His Name, and whenever He is called. He is ever present to us. Most specially, Jesus is present in the holy Eucharist (cf. Luke 22:19), a most wondrous gift of Himself where He is present in all His aspects, hidden under an ordinary piece of wafer, wherein He has left us a Real Presence of Himself and a memorial of His life of sacrifice.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, You wondered aloud that when You come back to earth, will faith be found on earth (cf. Luke 18:8). Despite what God our Father and You have done for us, through unrepented sins humanity remains ungrateful and persists blindly in error and confusion. We cannot stand up to Your justice, having rendered the greatest injustice to You, our loving God who deserves all our loyalty and love and who should take first place in our hearts and lives. What more can You do for us? You have given us Your all. Open our eyes, our minds, our hearts to embrace the truth of God's love and Your promise of eternal life. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit to strengthen us to walk on the true path that leads to our eternal life of joy and peace that God has planned for each and every one of us. Mary, Refuge of Holy Love pray for us. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.