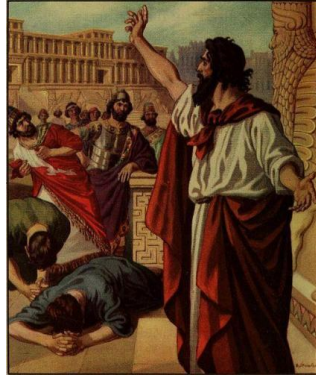


Homily

03.13.2019 – Wednesday – Lenten Weekdays (I)

Jon 3:1-10 Lk 11:29-32



Today's readings are centered on repentance of sins and the forgiveness that God will give to all those who have willingly abandoned their past waywardness and sincerely desiring to be forgiven. God did not desire our destruction but our salvation, not our suffering and pain, but rather our reconciliation with Him. That is why, in our first reading today we heard of the story of the redemption of Nineveh.

Nineveh was a great city, as the capital city of the great Empire of the Assyrians, Assyria and especially Nineveh, where its kings and nobles lived, was the embodiment of evil and wickedness, in the sight and thoughts of the people of God. Listening to God's word through prophet Jonah, they mourned before the Lord, humbled themselves, wearing sackcloth and showing sincere regret for the wicked deeds that they have committed. And God saw their sincere desire to be forgiven, and they were forgiven from their sins.

We are indifferent to what is happening. We live in an amoral Society. We are worse than the people of Nineveh. In the name of freedom, we have allowed ourselves to become slaves to the world, to the flesh, - child abuse, widespread pornography, terrorist activities, senseless killings, acceptance of abortion and euthanasia, justification of wars and drugs for personal pleasure, promotion of promiscuity and infidelity in

marriages, etc. and to the evil influence of Satan. We are numb to our spiritual blindness and sensitivity to sin. We have been so secularized by the world, the mass media, the values of society that we cannot hear the voice of God and the prophets that He sends us to urge us to repentance. God wants us to turn away from those sins, and to be reconciled to Himself. And we should not be wasting this opportunity that God has provided to us.

In this season of Lent in particular, we are called to reflect on our own sinfulness, our own wickedness, all the things we have done in disobedience against God. God wants us to turn away from those sins, and to be reconciled to Himself. And we should not be wasting this opportunity that God has provided to us.

Indeed, we are like the people of Nineveh and people during the time of Jesus who had Jesus with them. He performed all the miracles and yet they were still asking for signs! Jesus was the Word of God in person. He was the Wisdom and truth of God. But they could not accept. They pretended to listen to Him but their hearts and minds were unconverted.

Are we looking for signs? We need to recognize God-given signs in our lives: His hands behind the small and big events of our lives and His provident care in our lives. God's message given to us by others and by nature. God's Word in the Bible. God's miraculous presence in the Liturgy, specially in the Eucharist.

Let us experience these signs and live as God's wills and desires.

Let us pray:

Lord, I know You speak and show your signs to me in countless ways. Help me to heed Your voice, recognize your signs and accept all You say with perfect obedience and submission. I love You, my dear Lord, and I repent of my sin.

Jesus, I trust in You.