

Lent Friday Week 3

First Reading: Hos 14: 2-10;

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 81:6-10,14,16;

Gospel Reading: Mk 12: 28-34.

Theme: The Commandment of Love

The Prophet Hosea preached about the Hesed (total love of God) of Yahweh using very attractive terms such as “love freely,” “splendor,” “fragrance” “blossom,” “wine of Lebanon,” “bear fruit,” and “in them the just walk.” Jesus linked in a special way Hesed of Yahweh, with love of the people around us. The Scribe was impressed. He endorsed what Jesus said and even added that such love transcends any religious activity. Jesus was also impressed and said the Scribe was very close to the Kingdom of God because the Scribe put love of God and neighbor at the very center of living. However, the Scribe would not be fully part of the Kingdom until he became a follower of the Way of Jesus. We do not know whether that happened or not.

What we know is that we are called to follow Jesus in a total commitment of heart, mind, and strength in loving God unconditionally and every person as we love ourselves. This time of global crisis which coincides with the season of Lent is a good time for us to evaluate how we are reflections of the Hesed of God. Our spiritual life is like a mirage; it is always eluding us. But we can catch up with Jesus Christ, like the Scribe and He will acknowledge our good and sincere efforts. We have models of God’s love in the examples of the saints.

Fr. Sev Kupo