

Daily Mass Homily
20 March 2020
Friday of the Third Week of Lent

Reading 1: Hosea 14:2-10

Psalm 81: **I am the Lord your God, here my voice.**

Gospel: Mark 12:28-34

The reading that we have today from the prophet Hosea reminds us that we need “to return to the Lord, your God; you have collapsed through guilt.”

When we sin and do not follow the commands that our Lord gives to us, we remove ourselves from his grace and if we are not careful, we can suddenly find ourselves very far from the Lord. Often our sins are not that big, so we do not notice that we have moved ourselves of God’s grace. Not all of our sins are severe to the point that we are removed suddenly and far from God. Usually this distance grows just a small amount at a time.

Lent is a time for us to return and seek God’s forgiveness and mercy. We hear later from Hosea in this same reading that God will “heal our defection . . . I will love them freely . . . my wrath is turned away from them.” When we come back to the Lord, when we return to the path that he sets before us, he will indeed forgive us, he will love us. His wrath and anger have faded, and God is there waiting to welcome us back.

As we reflect upon our lives on this Friday of Lent, let us continue to see where God is wanting us to repent. Where do you in your life today need to return to the Lord? Now is the time to seek God’s mercy, because indeed his wrath is turned away from us.