

I SHALL GET UP AND GO TO MY FATHER

On this 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, our Mother the Church invites us to celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in some countries. However, in Mexico, when this celebration falls on Sunday, it is reserved only for parishes or churches that celebrate the Holy Cross as their main feast.

However, nothing prevents us from using the readings we have heard, also giving centrality to Christ's sacrifice on the Cross. For the texts of God's word speak to us particularly of God's mercy. What better example of His mercy than that, in loving us so much, He gave us His only Son in the sacrifice of the Cross so that in Him we may have abundant life.

The Book of Exodus presents to us in a personal way how God renounces the punishment deserved by the people of Israel for having strayed from the covenant. Meanwhile, the apostle Saint Paul, in his letter to Timothy, tells us about his experience of faith and, at the same time, his conversion; his return to his father's house, where he received the embrace of God's mercy.

In this same vein, the Gospel of St. Luke presents these three parables of mercy, which highlight the mystery of God's love, expressed in his mercy. But it also helps us reflect on the reality of the human being, who is fragile and small, and who often rejects the father's love and distances himself from his father's house.

However our Father God is patient, knows how to wait, and his greatest joy is to see the return of his son who had strayed.

The first parable speaks to us of the shepherd who seeks the lost sheep. That shepherd is Christ Our Lord, who calls us by name and lifts us up from our sin and carries us on his shoulders.

In the second parable, he presents us with the woman who loses a coin, but tirelessly searches for it until she finds it. This woman symbolizes the Church that constantly seeks us.

Finally, the third parable, known as the prodigal son, rather seeks to highlight the true protagonist: the loving father who always welcomes those who have strayed.

The passage St. Luke presents begins by saying that Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. This is precisely the reflection of God's love, his mercy, which is eternal. He welcomes us at all times, even though we have rejected him, even though we have failed, yet he gives us his love, not because we deserve it, but because the essence of God is love; his weakness is the repentant sinner.

Therefore when we contemplate Jesus on the cross, we must discover the greatest expression of God's love: a selfless love, a faithful love, a love that gives itself without measure.

In short, the joy of God and the Church is to see his children gathered in his house; gathered in love, in the feast of the Eucharist, to experience God's mercy.

Let us ask the Blessed Virgin to grant us the grace not to reject God's love, but to allow ourselves to be embraced by his mercy, which is eternal. Amen.