



Daily Reflections

March 9, 2018

Scripture

Hosea 14: 2-10

Thus says the LORD:

Return, O Israel, to the LORD, your God;
you have collapsed through your guilt.

Take with you words,

and return to the LORD;

Say to him, "Forgive all iniquity,

and receive what is good, that we may render
as offerings the bullocks from our stalls.

Assyria will not save us,

nor shall we have horses to mount;

We shall say no more, 'Our god,'

to the work of our hands;

for in you the orphan finds compassion."

I will heal their defection, says the LORD,

I will love them freely;

for my wrath is turned away from them.

I will be like the dew for Israel:

he shall blossom like the lily;

He shall strike root like the Lebanon cedar,

and put forth his shoots.

His splendor shall be like the olive tree

and his fragrance like the Lebanon cedar.

Again they shall dwell in his shade

and raise grain;
They shall blossom like the vine,
and his fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.
Ephraim! What more has he to do with idols?
I have humbled him, but I will prosper him.
"I am like a verdant cypress tree"–
Because of me you bear fruit!
Let him who is wise understand these things;
let him who is prudent know them.
Straight are the paths of the LORD,
in them the just walk,
but sinners stumble in them.

Our Scripture Reflection

The principle accusation of the Prophet Hosea against the people of Israel is "idolatry", the worship of pagan gods. The sin of idolatry had something of a domino effect, leading to other sins including the lack of compassion for orphans. After convicting the people of sin God offers them a way out, that is, if they humble themselves and repent. That same offer comes to us during this Holy season of Lent.

Food for your Journey

In the Chronicles of Narnia, C. S. Lewis provides the following pertinent dialogue. The children had just learned from Mr. and Mrs. Beaver that Aslan, the son of the "great Emperor-Beyond-the-Sea," was a lion.

"Ooh!" said Susan, "I'd thought he was a man. Is he quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion."

"That you will, dearie, and no mistake," said Mrs. Beaver. "If there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly."

"Then he isn't safe?" said Lucy.

"Safe?" said Mr. Beaver. "Don't you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

--C. S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (New York: Collier, 1970), 75-76.

God is not safe. God is not like a tame lion. But God is good. God is for us.

A Prayer from the Heart

Gracious Father, I come to You and ask for Your forgiveness for I am weighed down due to my sins. Cleanse me and heal me, Lord, as I pour out my heart to You in repentance. Strengthen me by the power of Your Grace and help me to live the life You want me to live. Amen