

A Second Chance at Conversion 3/24/19

Can you think of a life without a second chance? Today's readings invite us to consider the image of Moses who was given a second chance for a new relationship with God and the fig tree that was given a one more year chance to bear fruits. For us here today, God has given us another chance this Lenten season to engage with our continuous conversion and the things of our salvation. The call to conversion is a second chance opportunity from God to make the best of this moment with our lives. Conversion comes from a Greek word, metanoia, which means a 'change of mind'. There are consequences to the lack of conversion so let's not blow our chance!

Moses had run away after killing an Egyptian boy who was fighting with an Israelite. In the process he became a shepherd and an in-law of Jethro, tending the sheep. God revealed himself to him in the burning bush. God called out to him in the burning bush, and told him to remove his sandals because he stood on a holy ground. God entrusted to Moses the mission for the liberation of Israel from bondage. This was a second chance opportunity for Moses, to begin again and do something great for God and himself. This affords him an opportunity to enter into a new relationship with God, where he comes to know the name of God (God of mercy, God of love, keeper of covenant, the God who satisfies, the God who saves).

In the case of the fig tree image of the gospel passage, fruits were expected but no fruits were found on it, and the owner asked the gardener to cut it down. The gardener pleaded for one more year to till it and fertilize it to bear fruits. This fig tree is us, you and me. God has called us to bear fruits of righteousness and fruits of salvation. He cannot see these fruits on us now and he is asking us to change our minds and ways and bear fruits for everlasting life. Are we ready to respond to this call to remove the sandals of sin, immorality, injustice, gossip, slander? The sandals of lack of commitment and lukewarmness toward God?

Let us ask for God's grace which comes to give life to the ashes that we are that we may be raised up once more to bear abundant fruits of salvation.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

