

3rd Friday of Lent “A Remedy for Crumbling Kingdoms”

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Hi Gang, just a couple reminders. You can find the readings for the day at uscbb.org and, secondly, it's Friday...that means no meat. I hope you are doing well today. The first reading is from the Book of Hosea and this book is ancient, dating back to the mid 700's BC around the time of the fall of the northern kingdom. You see, Hosea attributes all the hardships that they are experiencing in their lives to the infidelity of his countrymen who had turned away from God and started worshipping false idols. Here are two thoughts I had about that: One, usually the worst parts of the bible seem to be when society turns its back on God. And, the best parts of the bible seem to be when the people repent and turn back to God. The thought that went through my mind was, maybe this is something for the people of our day to consider? Maybe what is really, really needed right now is for all of us to turn away from any false idols that we have been propping up in our lives and turn back to God. That was my first thought, for what it's worth.

The second thought I had was, since Hosea was written around the time of the fall of the northern kingdom, in times of stress and hardship, I began to have some sympathy for Hosea's countrymen. What I mean is, difficult times have a way of tempting people to turn away from God in thought, word, and deed; and, as we all know, this is terrible for the soul. This turning away from God can come in the form of self-medication. It can come in the form of grumpiness, selfishness even and it can come in the form of hoarding a five year supply of toilet paper. I mean really, what are people going to do with a five year supply of toilet paper? It is a real head scratcher. Fear can really do some strange things right?

And so, what is the remedy for difficult times? The bible suggests, the remedy for crumbling kingdoms is to love God and love our neighbor. There are 613 laws in the Torah and Jesus summarizes them all with loving God and loving neighbor. And so, if we feel like the kingdom around us is beginning to crumble right now? The answer Jesus gives us is to love God and love our neighbor. You see, love was the remedy for the chosen people centuries ago when their lives were falling apart and it is still the remedy for you and me today. And so, my friends, may we find ways to share God's love with others today, perhaps starting with ourselves, and then work our way outwards, one soul at a time. God bless you.