



4th Sunday of Lent
Reflection on the Gospel of
Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
-Asia-

Reflecting on today's Gospel brings me back to experiential and stories of mercy, love and forgiveness. I remember this vivid story of a wife who told me one day, that she sinned to her husband. She was attracted to a man and that lure leads to infidelity. She said: "I am blessed for having a husband who loves me dearly, forgives me and gives me a second chance. Without asking any condition, but simply, a desire that we can start again." She told continuously: "those acts made me feel ashamed for what I did, but that same gesture of love and mercy of my husband and family bring me back my dignity. She added, saying: "It made me realized that I am more than what I thought I was... damned, unfaithful, a sinner. To a reality that I am accepted despite of the mistake I did, that I am loved not because of my beauty and goodness but of my flaws, fragilities and even sinfulness. That I am forgiven, not of my own merit, in fact, I do not deserve it, but all is grace. I am grateful for receiving such graces. I am truly blessed."

In the Gospel of Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 presents to us the constant character of a father - God: forgiving and loving attitude to the lost and sinners. A father (God) who waits lovingly and watches patiently the return of the lost son. This demonstrates God's love for each of us and for all the humanity.

We can ask "What sin does when we reject the Father's will as mentioned in Hebrews 12:1 and Acts 8:23?"

Sin alienated us from God. And I quoted from one of my readings "Sin always promises more than what it gives, it takes us further than you wanted to go and leaves us worse off than we were before." It promises freedom but brings slavery (John 8:34). St. Luke reminded us of our Prodigal Father. Our God is Mercy. He embraces all and not exclude, he understands and not judge, he forgives and not condemned, he waits patiently and always hopeful for our returns.

As this fourth Sunday of lent invited us to hope and rejoice for Lent is half over and Easter is near; let us be glad and rejoice for our God is Mercy. Let us not lose hope and succumbed of the reality and the uncertainties that we are living now. May today's Gospel strengthens our hope to face life each day with confidence that we are not alone. God is with us. He is Love and Mercy.