

## *Third Saturday of Lent – 3/1*

"Then the Lord says: I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings." (Hosea 6:6)

Sally has quite a day scheduled. Her days are normally busy but during Lent she has so much more to fit in. She has to get to daily Mass before she goes to work. She has all the extra prayers to say each day but at least she can fit those in at lunch since she is fasting. After work she dashes to the soup kitchen to help out and when she goes home she has all her usual chores plus an hour set aside for prayer. She has given up complaining for Lent so she sighs and wonders how she is ever going to keep up with all of these for the rest of Lent.

One who sits by a spring will notice that there is always a steady stream of water that bubbles forth. Day in and day out the water comes up from the earth and blesses the land. It does not vary much in volume. Unlike a creek that can be nearly dry one day and flooding the next a spring continues to give a steady stream of water.

Perhaps God is asking in this passage that we be like the spring rather than follow Sally's example. He is not expecting any grand expressions of love but a steady and reliable love. God doesn't seem to be interested in flashy gestures and over-the-top rituals. God simply wants to know that our hearts will be in love with Him on Monday as well as on Sunday.

God doesn't seem to want us to go out looking for burdens to add to those that we normally shoulder. Rather He seems to suggest that if we take what has come our way and bear it with joy that will be enough.

Humanity sometimes gets caught up in the notion that if a certain amount is good then more must be better. Yet God understands that the "the more" of today cannot be sustained into tomorrow and that discouraged we may not want to begin again. God is happy with steady, no frills love. Giving our hearts in love to those around us is sufficient.

Today let us try to love steadily. Let us forget about all the other things that we could take on as Lenten penance. Perhaps we will find that we can give more freely of ourselves if we have let all the other things go.

### *Reflection Questions*

- 1. Do I need to adjust my attitude about burdens? Do I ever feel like a martyr?*
- 2. How can I joyfully give my love to the Lord?*

*Prayer: Lord, may my love be as a springs of compassion to my world. Amen.*