

GROWING TOWARDS OR AWAY FROM THE LORD: THURSDAY, 21ST JULY 2022; WEEK 17, YEAR II

JEREMIAH 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; PSALM 36; MATTHEW 13:10-17

It is not unusual to hear a spouse complaining that their partner has changed. Often, you hear things like he/she used to be very caring, romantic, patient and kind but now, he/she is very unromantic, uncaring and always angry.

Change is constant in life - we change, things change, circumstances change, and places change. However, not every change is good. We, as people, must always change for the better and not otherwise.

In the First Reading, God accused Israel of changing for the worse. The people were once very devout; they burnt with love for God and they were very zealous. Unfortunately, when they experienced comfort and affluence, they gradually became distracted. They drifted and abandoned the Lord and they started looking for satisfaction outside of God. The Lord said that they had abandoned Him, the source of living water and were now digging leaky cisterns for themselves.

In today's Gospel, Jesus talked about people whose ears, eyes and hearts have become locked, people who no longer listen to the Lord and are now stubborn in sin, people who have changed from being docile and obedient to becoming rebellious and lacking in understanding and perception.

Dear friends in the Lord, let us examine ourselves today.

Are we growing towards God or away from God?

Are we improving in our relationship with God, in our understanding of His word and will, in our self-control and resistance to sin?

Are we becoming more like Him or are we gradually becoming so used to sin, so hard heartened and becoming spiritually cold and weak in faith and zeal?

I end as I have started - change is constant but change is wrong when it means we are drifting away and losing our zeal and love for God. Change is dangerous when it means we become comfortable with what God forbids. Change is deadly when our love and fear of God become cold and weak.