

MARCH 14, 2026 FATHER TOMASZ SKIBINSKI

We can say that we are almost halfway through this time of Lent, through this Lenten journey towards the fulfillment of the Paschal mystery, the Easter Triduum. And we are finishing now the third week of Lent and last Sunday, we heard this story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well as she was coming to draw water in the heat of the day and Christ starts a conversation with her and brings her to the truth, to the truth about her life. And this woman at the end, she says, "He told me everything that I had done," but Jesus has not come to condemn her, to tell her how bad she was. No. She came, He came to tell her the truth about her life.

And today, as we listen to the words of, of the scriptures, we also hear about, about this, uh, this reality. The Lord, because this is what the time of Lent is. We need to come to the truth. Come to the truth about ourselves. It's not so much to present ourselves, how good we are, how many good deeds we are doing, but to come to the realization about who we truly are and this is the beginning of conversion. Conversion that this daily work we can say, daily struggle as well, but a daily task of every Christian to convert to stop looking at the others, comparing ourselves. You know, thinking that I am better than the other. No. But to stand in front of God in the truth, in the truth, and this is so necessary for all of us that we may see ourselves the way we are.

Why? Because God loves us the way we are. It's not, He doesn't love us the way we would like to be, we would like to see ourselves, but He loves us exactly like this. Often in our poverty, often with our sinfulness. That's why there is a call today as we heard in the first reading from the Prophet Hosea. It says, "Come. Let us return to the Lord. Let us return to the Lord. Let us accept who we are in front of Him." Yes, it is true, it

says, that he is struck down but He will bide us up. He's the one who heals, He's the one who restores us to what we are meant to be.

And there is already a, we can say, a prophecy, but already given to us and it says in this joyful news. Joyful news to which we are heading. After two days, He will revive us and on the third day, He will raise us up, which speaks about the resurrection. The Lord wants us to experience the Paschal mystery. Yes, we often experience sufferings. We often experience difficulties, we often experience our struggles, daily struggles. But that's not the answer. The answer goes beyond that, it's beyond that.

Well, this is what the Paschal mystery's all about. That it's about the, yes, the suffering, the death, and the resurrection of Christ and His glorification, and this is what we celebrate in every mass as we gather together. And this is what the Lord wants to do, so in this time of Lent that is, that is still happening, that is still part of our life, really let us, let us ask for the attitude of this tax collector. Of this man that knows who he is and he humbly stands in front of the Lord and he says, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

This is really a, an attitude that God is looking for. He says, "I desire steadfast love, not sacrifice." Sacrifices are necessary and they are good and yes, it is good to pray, to fast, to give the tenth. To do all those pious things. Yes, absolutely, but more than that, God wants us really to love. To love. Love, not only does it cover a multitude of sins, but love is also the fulfillment of all the scriptures and this is what the Lord wants also for us to manifest in this time.

So, that He may justify us so that He may say to us, "Yes, go. Go home. You are justified. You are justified. You have found mercy. You have found forgiveness for Your sins." And brothers and sisters, so we go on.

We go on to this, on this Lenten journey asking the Lord to give us this gift of three penance of conversion, but to give us the gift of seeing ourselves the way we are. Not just, in a way, stripping away all the masks that we often put in front of the others, so that we may be accepted, so that we may be welcomed, so that we may be loved by the other.

We don't have to do this in front of God. God is a father who loves His children and desires only one thing. That we may be saved and so, we enter into this celebration of this mass with this kind of attitude, with this kind of, um, of desires as well. That we may walk in the truth just as many saints did throughout the history of the Church. They knew who they were, but they knew that they were sinners, but they relied on the mercy and the love of God.