

Recognizing the Presence of God in my life.

The Season of Lent has been described as an acceptable time because it is a season set apart in a special. It is a season through which we journey with Christ through prayer, fasting (self-denial), and almsgiving. The meditation on these cardinal works helps us deeply evaluate our relationship with God, which shows itself in our relationship with one another. These works enable us to feel more the presence of God in our lives. The liturgy of this season helps us to do that. His presence helps us to know that he is always there with us even in the darkest moment of our lives, whether spiritual or physical struggles.

The first and second readings today are well connected. In the first reading, we read the beginning of God's saving work for the chosen race through the call of Moses. The center point of the reading is God identifying himself as an ever-living God: "I am who am." God told Moses that I AM was the one sending him. God who was; is; and will be forever. This call of Moses began the journey of saving the people from the hands of Egyptians led by king Pharaoh. The journey continued in the desert, where people disappointed God so much through their grumblings at the slightest discomfort. This part St. Paul uses to admonish us in the 2nd reading. They failed to recognize the presence of God in their difficulties they faced as they journeyed to the Promised Land.

The difficulties we face in life, which we all face in one way or another, do not mean that God has abandoned us. On the contrary, the tests help us recognize still the presence of God. Not all the sufferings of life are caused by one. There are many problems of life we cannot control, even at the speed of the progress of science. Thus, we see that in the first part of the gospel. Life is full of mystery. Recognizing the presence of God entails asking oneself the places God wants me to "manure" in my life, especially in this holy season of Lent, the lesson from the 2nd part of the gospel.

As we continue our journey in this holy season of Lent, we must ask ourselves: What are the challenges in our lives that affect our recognizing the presence of God in our lives? Our constant prayer helps us to do that. We must try not to search for God instead we are recognizing him. Our life cannot be a bed of roses, but what makes a lot of difference in life situations is how we face the difficulties and carry our everyday crosses. In every disappointment of our lives, God is inviting us to something. He knows the best, and his time is the best. It is not the time to grumble so much as to lose our faith but time to call him "Who is" to carry us through. We have to remember always that I AM is always with us. He will give us the wisdom and strength to carry the crosses life puts before us. Amen.