

Hosea 14: 1-10.

Psalms 80

Matthew 12: 28-34.

In today's Reading, Hosea offers words of revelation, encouragement and hope to the people of Israel.

First, he identifies the cause of their problems. "Your iniquity was the cause of your downfall." Then he gave them words of comfort. "I will heal their disloyalty. I will love them with all my heart. They will come back to live in my shade." Then awareness. "All your fruitfulness comes from me." "Let the WISE man understand these words. The ways of the Lord are straight and VIRTUOUS men (and women) walk in them, but sinners stumble."

Jesus quantifies the words of Hosea in the Gospel. A scribe approaches Jesus and asks an important question. "Which is the greatest of all the commandments?" Jesus' answer is immediately affirmed by the scribe, who says, "Well spoken, Master, what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is more important than any holocaust or sacrifice." Jesus, seeing how WISELY he had spoken, said, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God."

Let us listen to his Word too. Then we can exercise wisdom, recognise, and live Jesus' commandment of love in our own lives.