

Today Ezekiel announces God's compassion for his people. A people that are undeserving. Ezekiel thus proclaims the Word of God, "I will remember the covenant that I made with you when you were a girl, and I will conclude a covenant with you that shall last forever." The fulfilment of God's promises will be such that the people will be, "Covered with shame." Even to be, "Reduced to silence."

Sometimes we cannot see the wood for the trees, as Jesus is trying to explain to the Pharisees in Matthew's Gospel when he answers their question about divorce. He is very direct. "The creator from the beginning made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and cling to his wife, and the two will become ONE body. In the Sacramental covenant of matrimony, a man and wife choose to aim for the perfect unity that God intended. "They are no longer two therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide." In response, the Pharisees retort with an, 'Are, but...' statement. Don't we tend to do the same? When the going gets tough, as indeed it can do in a close relationship, we can't see the wood for the trees!

Certainly, as Jesus states, marriage is not for everyone. But for those who do enter into it, the covenant of matrimony is a life-giving experience to those who, in their covenant relationship, work towards the unity that God intended. "Let anyone accept this who can." Meanwhile, in all situations, we can know that God's covenant of love never falters and his compassion is ALWAYS there. So much so that, when we experience it, we too can be, "Reduced to silence."