

Thursday 25th November 2021

Hos.14,3: *"In you the fatherless find compassion."*

Eph.2,19: *"You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household."*

What the prophet Hosea puts in the mouth of the people of God by way of a confession of sin, suggesting if they seek God in this way they will find him, Jesus perfectly illustrates with the parable of the prodigal son (Lk.15)

In the parable the son, coming to his senses over where his journey is away from the father, the journey of sin, took him, conceives of the only thing that will save his life: a return to his father. But having as much as declared himself dead to his father when he left, he confesses to be fatherless: *"I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants."* But what he finds on his return to the father is a father who longed for the return of his son!

*"I will not leave you as orphans"*, says Jesus to his disciples, referring to the coming of the Holy Spirit, *"I will come to you"* (Jn.14,18). His going to the Father through cross, resurrection and ascension leads to the gift of the Holy Spirit to all who believe in him, through him to return to the Father: washed and cleansed from all sin and unrighteousness and given full sonship!

Jesus to Mary M: *"Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. God instead to my brothers and tell them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."* – Jn.20,17

*"The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."* - Rom.8,15-16