

FIRST READING **Jonah 3**

The first lesson is Chapter 3 from the book of the prophet Jonah.

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying,

"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city,
and proclaim to it the message that I tell you."

So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh,
according to the word of the LORD.

Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across.

Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk.

And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

And the people of Nineveh believed God;

they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When the news reached the king of Nineveh,
he rose from his throne, removed his robe,
covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh:

"By the decree of the king and his nobles:

No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything.

They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water.

Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth,
and they shall cry mightily to God.

All shall turn from their evil ways (and from the violence that is in their hands).

Who knows?

God may relent and change his mind;
he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish."

When God saw what they did (how they turned from their evil ways)

God changed his mind –
about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them;
and he did not do it.

Here endeth the first lesson.

SECOND READING

Luke 18.9-14

The 2nd. lesson is taken from the Gospel according to Luke, Chapter 18.

Jesus told this parable

to some who trusted in themselves
that they were righteous
and regarded others with contempt:

"Two men went up to the temple to pray,
one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus,

'God, I thank you that I am not like other people:

thieves, rogues, adulterers,
or even like this tax collector.

I fast twice a week;
I give a tenth of all my income.'

But the tax collector,
standing far off,
would not even look up to heaven,
but was beating his breast and saying,

'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

I tell you,
this man went down to his home justified
rather than the other;

for all who exalt themselves
will be humbled,

but all who humble themselves
will be exalted."

Here endeth the second lesson.