

## A Change of Heart

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Many readings in Lent speak of repentance, of turning away from sin and toward Jesus with our hearts open to receive the gift of His Spirit. Jesus fervently desires for us to be one with Him, to reside in our hearts.

In today's first reading, Jeremiah (31:31-34) speaks to the people in Jerusalem after the Babylonians captured the city. Jeremiah proclaims, the Lord says:

"I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

The theme is repeated in today's Psalm (51:12):

"A clean heart create for me, God; renew within me a steadfast Spirit."

Today's Letter to the Hebrews (5:7-9) shows that even Jesus humbly "offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears" that He might be "made perfect," that is, conform His heart to the Father's will.

And in the Gospel (Mark 1:12-15), Jesus teaches the necessity of our being humble and united with Him to do His work:

"Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be." (John 12:26)

To prepare us for that work of evangelization, *Unleash the Gospel* calls us to renew our hearts through prayer to the Holy Spirit. With the power of the Spirit in our hearts, we can go forth to share the Gospel effectively, lovingly. Archbishop Vigneron wrote, "There is no limit to what the Lord can do in our midst. His part is to clothe his Church with 'power from on high' (cf, Luke 24:49) for the accomplishment of her mission. Our part is to give him **our wholehearted 'yes'** - to let ourselves be transformed, guided, and sent forth by the Holy Spirit, who is the 'principal agent of evangelization.'" "The Holy Spirit is God's love **poured into our hearts**, revealing to us the Lordship of Jesus and our own exalted identity as beloved sons and daughters of God."

*Unleash the Gospel* is a call to change the culture and win the world back for God. Indeed, "the absence of God in our culture has not quenched **the thirst for God in the human heart**. It has only misdirected it. Every human being ... longs to be known and to be loved unconditionally. Everyone yearns for authentic happiness." With the power of the Spirit written in our hearts, *Unleash the Gospel* calls us to lead all people to the one source of authentic happiness, Jesus Christ.

**"O Lord, you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless  
until they find rest in you." (St. Augustine)**