

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit:
a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

Homily, 8th March 2017

Psalm 50

father. G. Paparone o.p.

We have listened to some verses freely taken from the psalm of today's liturgy.

It's a **psalm of remorse**. Through this fervent cry, full of faith and love, it teaches us to stay in front of God, it helps us understand what is important to God.

For thou delightest not in sacrifice; Else would I give it: Thou hast no pleasure in burnt-offering: [through] Isaiah [God] was already saying: why should I care about the multitude of your sacrifices?

God doesn't accept material, exterior sacrifices, sacrifices that don't involve the heart and the spirit. God is not one of those mythological deities, who were satisfied with sacrifices.

Our God is one who loves us forever and whatever, and one who wants to give us a new heart. He wants to give us life, happiness, joy, freedom,...

He is the one who makes the first move towards us, he is the one who tries to attract us to Himself with all of his strength. This is why the only thing He asks us is a stricken heart, a contrite heart: *a broken spirit is a sacrifice to God.*

God, you don't despise our remorseful heart, because it is what You look for, it is what you achieve; You are the only one who can give us the real and pure contrition of the heart.

Why is all this so important?

Because this contrition is what changes our heart, that makes us repudiate the evil and search for the good.

Let's then invoke God through our prayers, and ask Him to give us a contrite heart, because it is a gift of God.

Saint Teresa of Avila said the tears are one of the greatest graces that God can give us; the tears of remorse purify and clean our soul.

Let's then ask God, in this time of penitence, to be able to achieve a truly remorseful heart, a heart that is capable to repudiate the evil and to only search for the good, the truth, the justice, the peace and the harmony.

We want to thank together our Lord, because he is not a God who is satisfied with material sacrifices, but a God who wants to give us a contrite heart so that we can be free from any evil.