

March 2009

LENT – LEST WE FORGET

There is an old repartee that goes like this: The first person says, “Will you forget who I am in an hour?” The second person replies with the obvious answer, “No, of course not!” The first person continues, “Will you forget me in a day?” The second person again responds, “No!” The first person asks, “Will you forget me in a year?” The second person insists, “No!” Then the first person says, “Knock! Knock!” The second person says, “Who's there?” Now the first person says, “I thought you said you wouldn't forget me!”

Of the seven major covenants in the Old Testament, five of them are of the Royal Grant type, or covenants that say God will not forget us. These Royal Grant covenants are unconditional -- they have no “if” clauses such as, “If you obey me,” or “If you love me,” or “If you are faithful and responsible.” When we stand at the door and knock, God won't ask, “Who's there?”, because He never forgets who we are. He always welcomes us unconditionally into his fold.

The problem is, at any given moment, we may forget or refuse to stand and knock. At any given moment, we may act as if we've forgotten who we are and whose we are. Or we may be deceived in thinking we can gain entrance into God's Kingdom on our terms. Lent, in its solemn orientation, can help us not only to remember who God is, but also to be remembered literally to Him who creates us, redeems us and sanctifies us!