

Late night television is a genre all to itself. I have to admit, I'm a bit behind on whatever current trends are ... but I'm betting it hasn't changed too much. Reruns of shows that either take you way back - or maybe take your mom and dad way back. Talking heads who tend to laugh at their own jokes - or maybe have a paid side-kick to do that for them. What I remember most about late night TV are the infomercials.

Unrealistic exercise equipment ... cooking utensils that supposedly solve all your problems ... juice machines hawked by the "Juice Man" who is 150 years old because all he lives on is fresh squeezed broccoli juice ... and garlic ... The George Forman Grill ... and George's seven sons - all named George ... Ron Popeil and the pocket fishing pole that is so small you won't believe it.

A bizarre and magical world that is just too good to be true. In fact the infomercials are often better fiction than prime-time television.

In today's readings, it seems that the people can't get their minds around God's gifts. They have become so cynical ... so faithless ... that they see the power of God to be "too good to be true."

In the first reading, despite the long history of God's miracles in the Old Testament, the people continue to ignore God's commands. And in the Gospel, Jesus miracles are written off as diabolical tricks.

In our own times, God's promises and power may seem "too good to be true." We're just too accustomed to doing things our own ways, and we're not sure we want to surrender control.

The answer lies in the Psalm - "If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts."

Let us use the remaining time we have in Lent to ask God for a stronger Faith - that we may trust Him and His power to save us - realizing that our powers are nothing in the face of His grace, and love, and mercy. Let us realize that God isn't "too good to be true" - but rather that He is the only Good - and is the only Person in whom we can trust completely.