

Q: How does God's action in your life give you comfort? How can you rely on his love?

For Reading 2

Q: When have you been open to others lately? How has your hospitality and generosity helped you share the message of Jesus with others?

For the Gospel:

Q: Have you ever had the overwhelming sense you were loved? How do you know you are loved?

Q: How can you show God your love? Has the success of such efforts inspired you? Or, has the failure of such discouraged you? How has God's love for you helped you to act charitably toward others?



Weekly Reflection

FOR OCTOBER 25, 2020

The 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time



"You shall love God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself."

♦ **Exodus 22: 20-26**

"If he cries out to me, I will hear him; for I am compassionate."

♦ **Psalms 18: 2-4; 47; 51**

R: I love you Lord, my strength.

♦ **1 Thessalonians 1: 5c-10**

from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth.

♦ **Matthew 22: 34-40**

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind..."

"Lord Jesus, your love surpasses all. Flood my heart with your love and increase my faith and hope in your promises. Help me to give myself in generous service to others as you have so generously given yourself to me."

Question of the Week: How do you love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind?



Gospel Reading: Matthew 22: 34-40

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law tested him by asking,

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Gospel Meditation

What is the purpose of God's law and commandments? The Pharisees prided themselves in the knowledge of the law and the ritual requirements contained in the five Books of Moses (Genesis through Deuteronomy). They made it a life-time practice to study the 613 precepts of the Law of Moses along with the numerous commentaries written by various rabbis. They tested Jesus to see if he correctly understood the law and its requirements as they did. Jesus startled them with his profound simplicity and mastery of the law of God and its purpose.

What does God require of us? Simply that we love as he loves! God is love and everything he does flows from his love for us. God's love tempers everything he does – including his justice, mercy, kindness, and goodness and the way he treats both friend and enemy. God loved us first and our love for him is a response to his exceeding grace and kindness towards us. The love of God comes first and the love of neighbor is firmly grounded in the love of God. The more we know of God's love and truth the more we love what he loves and reject what is hateful and contrary to his will.

Cyril of Alexandria, a 5th century church father, explains how the love

of God orders everything we do.

"Therefore the first commandment teaches every kind of godliness. For to love God with the whole heart is the cause of every good. The second commandment includes the righteous acts we do toward other people. The first commandment prepares the way for the second and in turn is established by the second. For the person who is grounded in the love of God clearly also loves his neighbor in all things himself. The kind of person who fulfills these two commandments experiences all the commandments."

What makes our love for God and his commands grow in us? Faith in God and hope in his promises strengthens us in the love of God. They are essential for a good relationship with God, for being united with him. The more we know of God the more we love him and the more we love him the greater we believe and hope in his promises. The Lord, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, gives us a new freedom to love as he loves. Do you allow anything to keep you from the love of God and the joy of serving others with a generous heart? Paul the Apostle says: *hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us* (Romans 5:5). Do you know the love which conquers all? www.dailyscripture.net Copyright © 2013-2020 Don Schwager

Readings Reflections

For Reading 1:

Q: What is the opposite of a particular unlawful act? How can such an "opposite behavior" promote social peace? God's peace?

For the Responsorial Psalm:

Q: What can people be sure of? What insures that certitude?