



Thirty First Sunday Of The Year

The Two Great Commandments

Introduction

Today's liturgy reminds us of one of the greatest truths in the Bible, namely, that there are really only two commandments. The first is to love God, and the second is to love our neighbour. They are not meant to be separated. But we often do separate them. We like to think that we are on good terms with God, yet how many of us can say that we are on good terms with all our neighbours? We speak to God when we pray, but do we speak to all our neighbours?

First Reading (Deut 6:2-6).

Moses reminds the people of the great commandment to love God. To love God means to keep his commandments and to walk in his ways.

Second Reading (Hebrews 7:23-28).

This reading shows the superiority of Christ over the priests of the Old Testament.

Gospel (Mark 12:28-34).

All of God's commandments can be reduced to two.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray to the Father who loves all his children, deserving and undeserving, and who wants us to show our love for him by loving others in the same way.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For all the followers of Christ: that they may not be content to declare their love for God in church on Sunday, and then go out and ignore other people during the week. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For all our civil leaders: that God may fill them with a strong and unselfish love so that they may work for the progress of all people. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.



Liturgy Cycle B

Without love the world is very dark. For all those who have known little kindness in their lives and who practice even less. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For ourselves: that having experienced the love and mercy of Christ in our own lives, we may generously reach out to others and share these blessings with them. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

Communion Reflection

The greatest tragedy in the modern world is the way we have separated the two great commandments. It is clean contrary to the Gospel.

There are some who attend Mass most faithfully but who are undisturbed by their neighbour's misfortunes. Those who brag about their faith are worst the worst offenders

Then there are others — more numerous — who do not give a thought for God. All that matters to them is that they should succeed in their undertakings.

In other words:
those who have faith often have no love.
Whereas those who love often have no faith.

Thus the Gospel has been torn in two.
Those who have rejected God
are living with the half of the Gospel
we the believers have thrown into the dustbin.

Christ said that we are
to love God with all our hearts,
and to love our neighbour as ourselves.
That is the complete Gospel.