

## MARK 12:28-34

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

**COMMENTARY:** Notice the reply Jesus gives to the young man's reply. Prayer of the heart, no matter how frail or desperate has been affirmed and reaffirmed by the mystics of the Church for centuries.

**Note this from the Cloud of Unknowing:**

*For I tell you this,  
one loving blind desire for God alone is more valuable in itself,  
more pleasing to God and to the saints,  
more beneficial to your own growth,  
and more helpful to your friends,  
both living and dead,  
than anything else you could do.*

## Liturgy of The Word

3.11.24

31<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**I love you, Lord, my strength.**

I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.  
The Lord is worthy of all praise,  
when I call I am saved from my foes.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
Praised be the God who saves me,  
He has given great victories to his king  
and shown his love for his anointed.

## **DEUTERONOMY 6:2-6**

Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your children and your grandchildren. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord the God of your ancestors has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.

'Listen, Israel: the Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

**COMMENTARY:** We could say about this text that the foundation of the Jewish/Christian faith is rooted in the law of love.

**In this text obedience to the law is commanded. The second paragraph emphasises love for God. By obeying this command we instinctively love others, then discern which laws may need to become obsolete: e.g. abstaining from meat on Friday. It became obsolete because we largely forgot its significance and how it could help us serve the poor more effectively.**

**On the other hand, stealing, adultery etc are laws which will always remain, because they lack respect for others and are driven from the malice residing in the heart.**

## **HEBREWS 7:23-28**

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him.

To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

**COMMENTARY:** The reason priesthood is described as a Sacrament is because the state of priesthood is sharing in the ministry of Christ. We all share the priesthood of Christ, but the ordained priest is called to perform functions so that particular aspects of Christ's ministry and service are kept alive: e.g: the Eucharist, Sacrament of Penance.

**In the Eucharist, it is not a new sacrifice being offered, but the sacrifice offered is being made present through the symbols which become reality.**