

30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY A 2008  
Matt: 22:34-40

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.  
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.  
is how you do it.

BY JESUS DEFINITION

WHAT KIND OF “LOVER” ARE YOU?

WE HAVE HEARD THIS PASSAGE SO MANY TIMES

THAT I WONDER IF WE REALLY HEAR IT ANY MORE.

PERHAPS IF I SAY IT THIS WAY, MAY HELP

YOU AND I MAKE OUR LIVING BY WHAT WE GET.

BUT WE CREATE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE.

IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU WANT TO GIVE OF YOURSELF.

TOWARD GOD?

TOWARD THOSE IN YOUR FAMILY?

TOWARD THE NEEDY?

TOWARD YOURSELF?

THERE ARE THINGS IN YOUR LIFE –

THERE ARE SITUATIONS THAT YOU HAVE GONE THROUGH -

THAT YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED IN YOUR OWN LIFE

CERTAIN THINGS THAT MAKE YOU PERFECT

FOR SITUATIONS THAT CRY OUT FOR YOUR HEALING TOUCH.

AND THERE ARE THINGS THAT ONLY YOU CAN ADDRESS

BECAUSE YOU ARE ESPECIALLY QUALIFIED.

WHAT MAKES YOU THAT KIND OF PERSON –

LIFE!

YOU HAVE BEEN THERE

YOU HAVE DONE THAT.

LIKE THIS TRUE STORY

HE IS SITTING AT HIS DESK IN HIS SECOND-GRADE CLASSROOM.

SUDDENLY HE IS AWARE OF A PUDDLE BETWEEN HIS FEET

AND THE FRONT OF HIS PANTS ARE WET.

HE CANNOT IMAGINE HOW THIS HAPPENED.

THE POOR LITTLE GUY IS SO EMBARRASSED

HE WANTS TO DIE.

IT HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.

HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED.

WHEN THE GUYS FIND OUT,

HE WILL NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT.

THE GIRLS IN THE CLASS WILL NEVER SPEAK TO HIM AGAIN.

“PLEASE DEAR GOD”, HE PRAYS

“I AM IN BIG TROUBLE.

I NEED HELP NOW!”

HE LOOKS UP FROM HIS PRAYER,

AND A CLASSMATE NAMED SUSIE IS CARRYING A GOLD FISH BOWL  
FILLED WITH WATER.

SUDDENLY SHE LOSES HER GRIP OF THE BOWL

AND DUMPS THE WATER RIGHT INTO THE BOY'S LAP.

THE BOY PRETENDS TO BE ANGRY –

BUT HE IS PRAYING,

“THANK YOU, JESUS!      THANK YOU JESUS.

NOW INSTEAD OF BEING THE OBJECT OF RIDICULE,

THE BOY IS THE RECIPIENT OF SYMPATHY.

THE TEACHER RUSHES HIM DOWNSTAIRS

AND GIVES HIM GYM SHORTS TO PUT ON

WHILE HIS PANTS DRY OUT.

ALL THE CHILDREN ARE ON THEIR HANDS AND KNEES

CLEANING UP THE MESS.

BUT NOW POOR SUSIE BECOMES THE CENTER OF SCORN.

SHE TRIES TO HELP,

BUT THEY TELL HER TO GET AWAY.

“YOU KLUTZ!”

“WHAT A DUMB THING TO DO”

AND SO IT GOES FOR THE REST OF THE AFTERNOON:

HE IS SURROUNDED BY SYMPATHY

WHILE SHE IS SHUNNED.

AFTER SCHOOL, EVERYONE IS WAITING FOR THE BUS.

SUSIE IS STANDING OFF BY HERSELF.

OR BETTER SAID,

THE GROUP HAS MOVED AWAY FROM HER.

HE GOES UP TO HER AND WHISPERS,

“YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE, DIDN’T YOU?”

SHE WHISPERS BACK, “ I WET MY PANTS ONCE, TOO”.

**WE HAVE ALL HAD ARE OWN UNIQUE EXPERIENCES**

**THAT MAKE US MORE THAN QUALIFIED**

**TO KNOW WHAT TO DO IN PARTICULAR SITUATIONS.**

**DO THEM!**

YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF

EACH OF US KNOWS INTIMATELY WHAT WE NEED

AND WHAT WE WANT

IN THE MOST ORDINARY

AND EXTRAORDINARY SITUATIONS OF LIFE.

TODAY, WE ARE TOLD GIVE THAT TO OTHERS

I HAVE A SISTER, MARCIA, WHO HAS 5 GREAT CHILDREN, ADULTS NOW.

AND I NOTICE THAT THEY ARE DOING WELL,

PARTICULARY THE GIRLS.

THEY HAVE BEEN OFFICERS IN THEIR CLASS

THEY HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED WELL IN THEIR FIELDS.

EACH HAS TAKEN ON LEADERSHIP ROLES

I ASKED HER, HOW COME.

HOW DID THEY GET TO BE THIS WAY.

SHE SHARED WITH ME THAT AS A YOUNG GIRL

SHE HAD HIDDEN HER LIGHT

UNDER THE BUSHEL BASKET WHEN SHE WAS GROWING UP

FOR ALL KINDS OF REASONS.

AND SHE TOLD ME –

FROM EARLY LIFE THRU HIGH SCHOOL

I SPOKE TO THEM AND TOLD THEM

EXACTLY WHAT I NEEDED TO HEAR WHEN I WAS GROWING UP.

BUT DID NOT HEAR IT.

THAT THEY ARE IMPORTANT

THAT THEY ARE NO BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE

THAT THEY CAN TRY ANYTHING AND THEY WILL ACHIEVE

SOME OF THEIR GOALS,

BUT IF THEY DON'T TRY

THEY WILL ACHIEVE NONE OF THEIR DREAMS.

I WANTED THEM TO HAVE THE CONFIDENCE THAT I WISH I HAD

AND I SPOKE THOSE WORDS TO THEM ALMOST DAILY..

TODAY I CAN SEE THAT SHE CONTINUES TO SHAPE HER GRANDCHILDREN

IN THE SAME WAY.

YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF  
EACH OF US KNOWS INTIMATELY WHAT WE NEEDED  
AND WHAT WE WANTED  
IN THE MOST ORDINARY  
AND EXTRAORDINARY SITUATIONS OF LIFE  
TODAY WE ARE TOLD TO DO THEM FOR OTHERS.  
TO DO ANYTHING LESS  
IS TO NOT BE THE PERSON THAT WE WERE CREATED TO BE  
A SON AND DAUGHTER OF GOD.  
MADE IN HIS IMAGE AND LIKENESS.  
THROUGH WHOM ANOTHER CAN RECEIVE THE CARE OF GOD  
THAT WE ALL SEEK AND NEED.  
BY JESUS DEFINITION  
WHAT KIND OF "LOVER" ARE YOU?  
WE MAKE OUR LIVING BY WHAT WE GET.  
WE MAKE OUR LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE.  
IN WHAT WAY DO YOU NEED TO START GIVING RIGHT NOW?  
TOWARD GOD?  
TOWARD THOSE IN YOUR FAMILY?  
TOWARD THE NEEDY?  
TOWARD YOURSELF?  
HOW MIGHT YOU DO SO?

