

30th Week of Ordinary Time

- I. What if I told you it was OK to do whatever you like – anything goes
What if I told you it was OK to LOVE, and do whatever you like.
Changes the meaning completely doesn't it
St. Augustine used that to interpret today's Gospel
Love and do whatever you like.
- II. We've spent the last 3 weeks in Mt 22
Jesus is being challenged by the establishment
- Last week the Sadducees – is it lawful to pay taxes to Ceasar?
- This week it's the Pharisees turn – which is the greatest cmdmnt?
- This was a popular debate question – over 600 laws – which was #1
- III. Jesus replies Love God (clear) and Love Neighbor
What was new was HOW Jesus said it – he says the 2nd is LIKE UNTO IT
In Greek – that's NOT – it's similar to loving GOD
In Greek – it's the same as loving GOD

Love of Neighbor and Love of God are not two different realities

Jesus is saying Love of God and Love of Neighbor are so intimately connected they are two aspects of the same reality

The only way to love God is to love neighbor
The only way to love neighbor is to love God

1Jn 4:20 “Those who say they love God but hate their brothers and sisters are liars, for those who do not love brothers or sisters who they have seen cannot love God who they have not seen.”

We tend to make religion rather complex and cumbersome – theology, dogma, doctrine
It's really very simple – Love God and Love Neighbor
All laws, rules, doctrines, prayers, liturgies, Masses, Ceremonies, the sacraments – only exist insofar as they express Love of God and Love of neighbor.

Jesus' 2 commandments sum up all 10. (& no Thou Shall Not's)
It's not about what we don't do
It's about what we DO do.

Rose in the Weeds

This is the Christian Life –
Rooted in Commandment to Love, it blooms among the weeds.