

30th Week of Ordinary Time

INTRO - 1st Reading and Psalm ENGLISH - 2nd Reading and Gospel SPANISH

- I. How are we supposed to live as Christian men?
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 GOD, and do whatever you like.
Changes things 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 #1
1. Some of these laws are in 1st Reading from EX
 2. In 2nd Reading St. Paul tells Thess.
 1. "you know what kind of people we were when among you, and you imitated us"
 2. What kind of people are we?
 3. What kind of Christian men are we? LET US PRAY
 - **Bahamas**
 - a. Our 1st trip to the island of Andros
 - i. Three weekend services right away
 - ii. Then - Monday morning – Herbie – drunk, staggering, machete
 1. How do I get him off the property
 2. Personal safety (knife)
 3. My wife's Egg Sandwich – who's faithful to J's cmdmnt

Jesus' 2 commandments LOVE GOD & LOVE NEIGHBOR.

Both start with the same verb – LOVE (1 word summation of all 10)

- III. Jesus' commandment to Love God (is clear) and Love Neighbor
What was new was HOW Jesus said it – he says the 2nd is LIKE IT
In Greek – that doesn't mean – 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
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."

Let me ask you:

- How do we love God? How do we love neighbor?
 - Do we relate to people here differently than with people at work?
 - Do I relate to my co-workers differently than I do with my family?
 - Should I love them any less?
1. The first reading calls us to love the foreigner, widow, and orphan. Strangers!
(Herbie)
 2. Who is Herbie in your life? Societies cast-off, the rejects?
 3. Can we really love God without loving them?

We tend to make religion rather complex and cumbersome – theology, dogma, doctrine

Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists -

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.

When we bought our first house

Rose in the Weeds

This is the Christian Life –

We all have Herbie's in our lives – and our friends and family watch us.

They see how we deal with them.

Do we throw them out, or give them an egg sandwich

As Christian men, for our relationship with God to be real –

We need to bloom in the weeds