

15th Sunday Ordinary Time

- First time preaching in prison and I get readings about obeying the law and a Gospel about a man robbed and beaten and left for dead.
- Today's readings remind us of what we already know –
Yet it is something we need to be reminded of over and over again
- DT talks about God's law – we need to know:
 - God's law is a reflection of God's desire to keep us near to Him
 - *Because we are His beloved children*
 - It's not hidden – not far away
 - It's not up in the sky or hidden under the sea
 - DT "It is something very near, already in your mouths and in your heart – you have only to carry it out"
- *Same in the Gospel* - Lawyer asks Jesus 'What must I do to gain eternal life?'
 - You can almost hear Jesus sigh
 - What is written in the law (what is right in front of you)? DUH
 - Jesus has no new revelation – it's been in script for centuries
 - "Love the Lord your God and Love your neighbor" (from DT)
 - But Jesus makes it new with the parable of the Good Samaritan
 - Jews hated Samaritans – they were considered rejects
 - Jews intermarried with Gentiles, abandoned Jewish customs, 5 books of bible
 - yet it was the Samaritan who helped the beaten Jew
 - For you - Who is:
 1. That person we dislike
 2. That person against whom we are prejudiced
 3. The person we're afraid of
 4. The person of another race or religion
 - The Samaritan, like God's law, is not distant – but right in front of us
 - The lawyer asks who is my neighbor – I ask, who is your Samaritan?

My Chicago Experience

GOD DEMANDS WE LOVE

- Both our friends and our enemies
- Both the lovable and unlovable
- AND DO IT with the same passion – as our love of God

How will they know we are Christian – by our love for one another
How will they know we are Christian – by our love for our enemies
Who is your neighbor Who is your Samaritan
We are called to love them both