



Respond to God's Love



Proper 30: October 26, 2014

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

COLLECT:

Lord of the teasing riddle, whose questions undo our certainty and sit us on a different path: give us a heart of passion, a searching mind, gentle strength of body and unseen depths of soul, so that we might love you wholly and our neighbour as ourselves; through Jesus Christ, the law of grace. Amen.

Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009), 39 alt.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Jesus quotes Moses' statement about the first commandment (Deuteronomy.6:5). From a stewardship point of view, how do you love God with all your heart, soul and mind?

The second commandment is found at Leviticus 19:18. What else does Jesus teach about love? Does this take the focus from God?

What does it mean to you to love your neighbour as yourself?

Why do the people no longer dare to ask Jesus any questions?

How is Jesus asking you to listen in this passage?

What does the passage say to you about generosity?

Do conversion or stability play a role in this reading?

How does this passage prompt you to respond to God's love?

STEWARDSHIP THE BENEDICTINE WAY: STABILITY-OBEDIENCE-CONVERSION : PRAY-WORK-SHARE-STUDY-PLAY