



Bringing Home the Word

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
October 25, 2020

Jesus Gave and Asks for All

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Jesus was a radical. This is expressed by the word all in today's Gospel. All your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. What does that command leave out? That's right, nothing! Jesus gave it all, and he asks for it all. That is radical.

Jesus is the first one to give us the example of this total and self-giving surrender to God the Father. When prayer was more important than sleep, he prayed. When he had to go without food, like in the desert, he did. When he knew that God wanted him to stay in town, he did. And when it was time to move on, he did as well. When he knew God wanted him to preach a word of compassion or condemnation, he did, regardless of whether the person was a

beggar, Peter, Pilate, or Herod. He gave all his heart, mind, and soul to God.

And what about loving his neighbor as himself? He loved not only his perfect, immaculate Mother, but he also loved his imperfect fellow human beings: his apostles, disciples, and fellow Jews whose faith and understanding were slow. He loved Judas and chased down discouraged apostles heading to Emmaus. He loved his enemies just as much. Tax collectors, publicans, Roman soldiers, Samaritans all received words and acts of love. The poor also had a special place in his heart, as was evident by his many miracles of soul and body for them.

His love even went beyond those people he encountered in his life and reached everyone for all times. He established the sacraments and his Church to accompany on their earthly pilgrimage all those who would follow him throughout history. He descended into hell to save those who had gone before him and opened heaven.

In short, he gave it all! And so, he can ask the same from us as well. +

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A Word from Pope Francis

All of us, living and dead, are in communion, that is, as a union; united in the community of those who have received baptism, and of those who are nourished by the Body of Christ.... We are all the same family, united. For this reason, we pray for each other.

—General audience, November 30, 2016



Sunday Readings

Exodus 22:20–26

You shall not oppress or afflict a resident alien, for you were once aliens residing in the land of Egypt.

1 Thessalonians 1:5c–10

And you became imitators of us and of the Lord.

Matthew 22:34–40

[Jesus said,] "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- What is Jesus asking as you strive to give him your all?
- Joy comes from giving our all. Do you experience that joy?

Translating the Gospel Message for All

By Johan van Parys

My nieces and nephews are great kids—intelligent and kind—and I'm proud to be their uncle. Still, I regret their lack of participation in the life of the Church. From what other parishioners tell me, this is happening all around, not just in my family. Why are we losing so many young people? Why doesn't the gospel message get through to them?

This issue of the best way to communicate the gospel can be traced back to the apostles. Think about our Church's beginning—the time of Pentecost. Outside the Upper Room, I imagine great festivity as people from many regions and nations gathered in Jerusalem. Inside the Upper Room, the apostles were hiding, burdened with fear and uncertainty. Then suddenly everything changed. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the apostles overcame their fear and burst into the street. The sight of the apostles, on fire with the Spirit as they spoke about God's marvelous deeds, must have quieted the crowd. Miraculously, everyone was able to understand them despite ethnic differences and linguistic barriers.

From Jerusalem, the apostles spread throughout the world proclaiming the Good News to every nation known to humankind. They succeeded because they presented the Gospel truth in different languages through various channels.

Successful missionary activity has always relied on the translation of the



one and true message into the vernacular and familiar idioms of the people receiving the message. The failures of the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century mission attempts in China were attributed to the Church's refusal to allow a Chinese Catholic rite that would have included "baptismal" pre-Christian theological language and accommodated ancestor worship, which was very dear to them. On the flip side, the success of the Church's mission in Central Africa has been ascribed to the introduction of a Congolese rite that considers the ethos of Central Africa and allows typical African modes of celebration.

As we preach the gospel in our current, ever-changing reality, we can do one of two things: turn inward and hide in a romanticized understanding of our perceived glorious past or find new ways

to preach the gospel. The first option might prove disastrous as the Church continues to crumble. The second, though not easy, offers hope—and the promise of a Church ever new and true.

During the next twelve months let us listen carefully to the spiritual needs of our people, learn to understand and speak their languages, and use their idioms wisely to spread the Good News. Let us pray for the knowledge and courage to do what needs to be done.

Finally, let us pray for the safe return of loved ones whose journeys have led them away from our Church. +

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PRAYER

Lord, I am grateful your commandments to love are simple and to the point. Keep my focus on loving you. Stretch my heart to love my neighbor, too.

From Grateful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

October 26–31

Monday, Weekday:
Eph 4:32—5:8 / Lk 13:10–17

Tuesday, Weekday:
Eph 5:21–33 / Lk 13:18–21

Wednesday, Sts. Simon and Jude:
Eph 2:19–22 / Lk 6:12–16

Thursday, Weekday:
Eph 6:10–20 / Lk 13:31–35

Friday, Weekday:
Phil 1:1–11 / Lk 14:1–6

Saturday, Weekday:
Phil 1:18b–26 / Lk 14:1, 7–11

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