

## **31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY – ORD. TIME (B) (October 30/31, 2021)**

### **CHRISTIANITY IS ALL OR NOTHING**

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To come to the Father and to be saved we have to do certain things. These are the things we just heard in the readings. Moses told the Jews what God wanted them to do to be prosperous, and to live a long life. They were to fear the Lord God throughout the days of their lives, to keep ALL His statutes and commandments. They were to love the Lord their God with ALL their heart, with ALL their soul, and with ALL their strength. In other words, they were to love God with their whole being.

Jesus repeated the same law, when tested by the scribes to find out whether He knew the law which they had interpreted into 613 by-laws. Jesus summarized the laws into two – love of God and neighbor. The scribe affirmed that to love God and neighbor is much more than ALL whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

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How do I love? "No one has greater love than to lay down his life for his friends," (Jn.15:13). Therefore, to love is to offer my ALL to God and to my neighbor. The way I love myself is the same way I have to love the other person. But is there any love in the world nowadays? In our world today, it is me and what pleases me. Now 'it is myself, my freedom, my pleasure, and my convenience. Charitable work has turned out to be an obligation, or social duty. It is what I will get in return that drives me to do what I do, not a way of sacrifice. I don't want to offer everything, because I don't want to lose anything, but it is clear today that it is when I give ALL that I will gain more. When Ananias and Sapphira decided to hold back some of the proceeds of their property, they lost everything including their lives; (Acts 5:1-11).

## **31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY – ORD. TIME (B) (October 30/31, 2021)**

### **CHRISTIANITY IS ALL OR NOTHING**

When we were baptized, we professed our faith in the Trinity – God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and added that we reject all the works and offerings of Satan. It was a promise to offer ourselves totally to God.

This offering of ourselves to God is a response to what we have received from God Himself. He offered us everything He created on the earth, and finally offered His Son to us as a sacrifice. Christ the High Priest offered himself to us and through Him all those who come to the Father will be saved. This is because He is always interceding for all those who obey the commandments of God.

To come to the Father and to be saved we have to do certain things. These are the things we just heard in the readings. Moses told the Jews what God wanted them to do to be prosperous, and to live a long life. They were to fear the Lord God throughout the days of their lives, to keep ALL His statutes and commandments. They were to love the Lord their God with ALL their heart, with ALL their soul, and with ALL their strength. In other words, they were to love God with their whole being.

Jesus repeated the same law, when tested by the scribes to find out whether He knew the law which they had interpreted into 613 by-laws. Jesus summarized the laws into two – love of God and neighbor. The scribe affirmed that to love God and neighbor is much more than ALL whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

As a Christian, I am to love as God has loved me. According to St. Paul, “The only thing you should owe to anyone is love for one another, for to love the other person is to fulfil the law,” (Rom.13:8). One cannot love God without loving a fellow human being, that was why St. John told the believers: “Anyone who says, ‘I love God’ and hates his brother, is a liar, since whoever does not love the brother whom he can see cannot love God whom he has not seen,” (1Jn.4:20). He continues to say: “God is love and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in Him,” (1Jn4:16).

Jesus told His disciples, “Anyone who loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home in him,” (Jn.14:23). Thus, to love God is to keep His commandments. Are the

commandments of God relevant in this world today? Don't I pick and choose which ones to obey? I am even re-interpreting them to suit my way of life. I sometimes consider them as an imposition and restricting my freedom.

Whom should I love, those who are dear to me? No, I am to love everybody, ALL peoples, including my enemies and those who hate me. "You have heard how it was said, 'You will love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say this to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; so that you may be children of your Father in heaven," (Mt.5:43-45a). "Let love be without any pretense," (Rom.12:9).

How do I love? "No one has greater love than to lay down his life for his friends," (Jn.15:13). Therefore, to love is to offer my ALL to God and to my neighbor. The way I love myself is the same way I have to love the other person. But is there any love in the world nowadays? In our world today, it is me and what pleases me. Now 'it is myself, my freedom, my pleasure, and my convenience. Charitable work has turned out to be an obligation, or social duty. It is what I will get in return that drives me to do what I do, not a way of sacrifice. I don't want to offer everything, because I don't want to lose anything, but it is clear today that it is when I give ALL that I will gain more. When Ananias and Sapphira decided to hold back some of the proceeds of their property, they lost everything including their lives; (Acts 5:1-11).