

July 10, 2016 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The words of the Lord are Spirit and life!

Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Psalm 69:14+17,30-31,33-34,36a+37

Colossians 1:15-20

Luke 10:25-37

In the first reading Moses encourages the people to keep the laws and statutes as they return to the Lord God with all their hearts and souls. These things, he says, are not too deep and mysterious to be carried out, but are close to each heart and need to be carried out.

The psalmist prays that the Lord God will hear his prayers and be merciful to him. He is afflicted with illness and in pain and seeks the protection and saving help that can only come from the Lord. The Lord hears the cry of the poor and helps his own that are in bondage. Zion will be saved and the cities rebuilt.

Paul describes Christ Jesus as being in the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation who is before all things, and in whom all things are held together. Fullness is pleased to dwell in him and through him all things will be reconciled.

In the Gospel Jesus is questioned as to what is necessary, by the law, to inherit eternal life. The answer is clear: Love God with all your heart, being, strength, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. In order to elucidate who is neighbor, Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan. The victim who lies helplessly along the road is passed by the priest, then the Levite, and finally helped by the Samaritan, the least likely to help in the eyes of an Israelite.



**The Father created all things,
The Son sustains them,
The Holy Spirit constantly improves them.**

Moses tells the Israelites to return to the Lord God with all their hearts and souls while Jesus clarifies this by saying all are called to love God with all their beings and love their neighbors as themselves. Think of loving God as a vertical relationship and loving neighbor as a horizontal one. These two directions trace the sign of the cross and indicate the great blessings that will flow from following this Great Commandment.

We seek to conform ourselves ever closer to Jesus,
but sometimes stumble or are even waylaid and lose our likeness to Him.

In those cases Jesus is our Good Samaritan
and guides us to safe haven,
and sends his angels to remakes us again into his image,
reminding us when we have unknowingly fallen into sin,
or have become lukewarm or careless,
or make light of our own faults and shortcomings.

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