

Sunday6-A6 Homily by Fr. Gabor 2020.02.016

Two weeks ago we celebrated the Sunday of the Word of God and I wish we had had a Year of the Word of God, so that we realise how important and influential the Word of the Father is for our lives, and in particular the Ten Commandments. We heard in the Gospel reading that Jesus came to fulfil the Law, not to abolish it.

To understand what this means, first of all it is important that you think of God not as a deity, but as your heavenly Father, as our heavenly parent, who is love itself as St. John says in his first letter. (1 John 4: 16). So everything that comes from Him tells us something about His love for us.

Normally parents you love your child and they love you in return, but you also teach them how to love others; basically you teach them the rules of love. Of course you don't write down these rules, like the Ten Commandments; there is no need for it, because you can explain to your children in your own words the ways and rules of loving God and others, and they can hear you, plus you can show by your example what true love is, because they can see you. But because normally we can neither hear nor see God our heavenly parent He speaks to us through images and writings, such as the Bible and in particular through the Ten Commandments and He shows us His love by the example of His beloved Son, our Saviour, and also through the exemplary life of His committed followers. So it is quite right and important to have the Ten Commandments, as they tell us about the way God loves us and the way He wants us to love Him and others.

We read in the first reading from Ecclesiasticus (or Sirach) that the Lord sets life and death before us and says that it is basically up to us which one we choose. So as a parent He doesn't force us to choose His commandments. He gives us freedom to choose it or reject it, because He respects the freedom He has given us. When you are a child you naturally accept what your parents tell you, but when you become a teenager you may be tempted to be autonomous, ie. self-governed, and reject many rules of engagement, but when you grow older the question arises what will be the guiding principle of your life, your own chosen principles or perhaps God's law? Unfortunately many of us pick and choose which of the Ten commandments we keep and which secular customs or expectations we obey, and create a mix, because that gives us a false sense of freedom and also a false

sense of being Ok with God the Father. But we need to be honest and decide if this is right or not. Remember what the Lord says in Matthew 6:24: no one can serve two masters: God and the world, because you can only truly love either this or that.

God does not pressurise you, like society does, to choose His Law. In the same way a loving parent would not force his child to blindly obey his expectations. Blind following of the Law is not what the heavenly Father wants. It is not based on real love, and it forces you to develop a slavish mentality; but we are not slaves of God; we are His beloved children.

So as His child the Father wants you to trust Him that His commandments are really for your happiness and for the happiness of everyone. Then try to understand the deeper meaning of the Commandments. Read just one bit each day for the next 10 days and each day ask the Holy Spirit, as the Psalmist does: to open your eyes to the wonders of the Law, which is the love of the Father, and so gradually integrate the commandments into your daily life out of love for your heavenly parent. You will face difficulties, but those difficulties will teach you about yourself and about what areas of your life still need to be integrated into your love relationship with God and neighbour. And when at last your love for God and neighbour are completely integrated with each other on the basis of the Ten commandments, then you will be able to say you have fulfilled the Law.