

## Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – July 11, 2010 – Good Shepherd Parish

### Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Moses said to the people: "If only you would heed the voice of the LORD, your God, and keep his commandments and statutes that are written in this book of the law, when you return to the LORD, your God, with all your heart and all your soul. "For this command that I enjoin on you today is not too mysterious and remote for you. It is not up in the sky, that you should say, 'Who will go up in the sky to get it for us and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?' Nor is it across the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross the sea to get it for us and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?' No, it is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out."

### Psalm: Ps 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37

R. Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live.

I pray to you, O LORD,  
for the time of your favor, O God!  
In your great kindness answer me  
with your constant help.  
Answer me, O LORD, for bounteous is your kindness:  
in your great mercy turn toward me.

I am afflicted and in pain;  
let your saving help, O God, protect me.  
I will praise the name of God in song,  
and I will glorify him with thanksgiving.

"See, you lowly ones, and be glad;  
you who seek God, may your hearts revive!  
For the LORD hears the poor,  
and his own who are in bonds he spurns not."

For God will save Zion  
and rebuild the cities of Judah.  
The descendants of his servants shall inherit it,  
and those who love his name shall inhabit it.

### Scripture Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross through him, whether those on earth or those in heaven.

### Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test Jesus and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply,

You shall love the Lord, your God,  
with all your heart, with all your being,  
with all your strength, and with all your mind,  
and your neighbor as yourself."

He replied to him, "You have answered correctly; do this and you will live."

But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn, and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.' Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."



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### PARISH MISSION 2010 – July 18-20

#### “Advancing the Kingdom”

Loving God, you have called us together as one family of faith to advance the Kingdom of God. We ask you, Divine Spirit, to inspire and re-energize us as we prepare for our Parish Mission.

Open our hearts and help us to put aside the routine of a few days so that we might be filled more abundantly with your spirit and embrace more fully the vision Christ intended for us. For this we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen

## **Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – July 11, 2010 – Good Shepherd Parish**

### **INVITATION TO PRAY**

*Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God.*

### **Proclaim the Scriptures out loud.**

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

### **INVITATION TO REFLECT**

If we listen carefully to Sunday's readings we will hear the whole Christian, Catholic life very gently stated. In the [First Reading](#) Moses explains how simple God's command is. I would like to quote his words because they are beautiful. "God's command is not too mysterious and remote for you. It is not up in the sky, that you should say, 'Who will go up in the sky to get it for us and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?' Nor is it across the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross the sea to get it for us and tell us of it, that we may carry it out?'" The commandment of the Lord is very near to us, already in our hearts and in our mouths. We have only to carry it out. But what is it?

In the [Gospel](#), a lawyer is very interested in this question. He asks Jesus to boil the whole law down to a single saying. Since the answer is "not too mysterious and remote," Jesus asks the lawyer what he thinks it is. The man says by rote: You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. "You have answered correctly; Jesus says. Do this and you will live." But the man wants specifics. He is digging. *Who is my neighbor*, he asks. What would be your answer to this question? It seems to be the crux of the matter. For his part, Jesus is trying to get the man (and you?) to find the simple answer without being handed it. As before, he does not respond directly, but this time gives the lawyer a parable to chew on.

A man fell victim to robbers. They beat him terribly, take his money, and leave him lying in the road, half-dead. A priest (an Israeli) saw this wounded man on the road and he passed right by, averting his eyes. A Levite (an Israeli) did the same thing. Along came a Samaritan, who theoretically should have been an enemy of the Israelis. But he did not avert his eyes or cross to the other side of the road.\* He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn, and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, 'Take care of him.' Now the lawyer starts to get it. Jesus asks him, "Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers' victim?," and the lawyer says right away, "the one who treated him with mercy." Jesus answers, "Go and do likewise." He does the same thing with you and me. Jesus keeps working us, trying to get us to see the simple answer inside us. Go help those in need, because God has given you an open heart. If only you would let your heart receive his love and then pass it on to his other beloved people! This is not too mysterious or remote. Start now. Become what you were made to be. It is written within you.

\* Jesus is not trying to slander the Israelis, he is showing that your neighbor is not just your own tribe or family or even just your friends. Every person on earth is your neighbor. Each is beloved to God, each is precious to the One we are to love with our entire being, strength, mind, and self.

### **INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING**

1. Where does every person find God's commandment? Jesus said the commandments are: love God and love your neighbor. Do you find yourself relying on the codes and guidelines more than on the underlying commandment?
2. With whom did Jesus spend time? After all, he was "Christ Jesus, the one who is before all things, the firstborn of all creation." With whom do you want to spend time? Do you make an effort to give time to God and the people you love or are you always in a hurry to do more important things?
3. If you found the victim by the road, would you be willing to help? Can you think of someone else who would? If the victim in the story were your neighbor or your friend would you be more willing to act like the Good Samaritan? So what is Jesus telling us? What is it that makes all people neighbors?

### **INVITATION TO ACT**

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

### **CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY**

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another's openness and sensitivity. Conclude with the following:

God our Father, your light of truth guides us to the way of Christ. May all who follow him reject what is contrary to the gospel. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen