

## **05/14/2023. 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Year A**

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17, I Pt 3:15-18, Jn 14:15-21

Today's readings lead us to reflect upon two gifts which are deep within us. One is love and the other is the Holy Spirit. Both cannot be really known in themselves; both are made real for us, they are realized in their activity and in their external manifestation. In the gospel message for this 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Sunday, Jesus talks about His commandments. He says to his disciples, "if you love me, you will obey my commandments" It is like a mother telling her child, "if you love me, do as I tell you."

Once a little boy approached his mother and asked: "Mama, what are the 10 commandments?" The mother replied, "those are the commands of God to us", "Mama, you are higher than God". The mother was startled and asked: why? He said, "Because He has only 10 commands but you have more commands!".

We all know so very well that talk is cheap and mere words are without meaning unless our words are expressed in deeds. Love is not simply a nice feeling, a sentiment, warm emotion. Love becomes real in decisions make and in the actions that follow. Words of love are of great importance. There is nothing wrong with saying "I love you". In fact, they can be the most beautiful and powerful words in a person's life. It is vital for husbands to tell their wives they love them. It is vital for wives to tell their husbands they love them. It is very for children to hear words of love from their moms and dads along with lots of hugs. And so should be with friends too. It is in this realization Jesus did not discount the value of the verbal communication of love but He went beyond it because He knew that love is much more than mere words. Jesus, on the other hand, defines love in terms that are strong, concrete and real.

Love is action, love is a way of living; love is an attitude towards others that expresses why God created us in the first place. He created us to love us and in return be loved by us. Jesus went on to say: "The one who has

my commandments in his heart and keeps them is the one who loves me.” It’s how you live that lets you know that you live in love.

Finally, Jesus speaks of unity. There is the unity of the believers to Christ. Jesus taught that, whatever you do to the least of my brothers you do to me? St. Paul experienced this on the road to Damascus when he heard the voice say? Why do you persecute me? It is a beautiful part of God’s love that binds us to Him. Reflect on all that God has done for us and is doing for us out of this great love. Jesus invites us to experience the Love of our Father, the grace that flows from Him, and the unity of the Holy Spirit that binds them into one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Today is Mother’s Day.** Today is one of the most beautiful days of the year. Today we thank our mothers, pray for them, honor them by celebrating Mother’s Day and by offering our mothers on the altar of God.

Let us reflect on the thoughts of two great men about the role their mothers played in their lives. George Washington once said, “My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual, and physical education I received from her.” Abraham Lincoln spoke similar words when he said, “All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother.”

This is a day to admit gratefully the fact that none of us is able to return, in the same measure, all the love that our mothers have given us. Their influence on their children is so great that it affects the children throughout their lives. Our mothers not only gave us birth but nursed us, nurtured us, trained us in their religious beliefs and practices, taught us good manners and ideal behavior, disciplined us as best as they could, and made us good citizens of our country, our Church, and our society. There is a beautiful Spanish proverb: “An ounce of mother is better than a pound of clergy.” Therefore, today we thank our mothers, pray for them and honor them by celebrating Mother’s Day and by offering our mothers on the altar of God. And I wish every one of the Mothers, a very Happy Mother’s Day and God bless you all.