

Rectoría San Juan de Dios
XIII Sunday Ordinary Time-Cycle A
2 Kgs 4, 8-11.14-16; Ps 89; Rom 6, 3-4. 8-11; Mt 10, 37-42
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Let Us Love with the Love that Jesus Wants

In our times, we can define love in many ways, including with the most beautiful and universally accepted distinctions.¹ But from this Gospel, we are invited to find the kind of love that Jesus wants, a practice of perfect love.

If the fountain of love is God and we want to love in that dimension, it is necessary to adhere to Jesus. He is the communicator with God the Father. When He said to His disciples, “*He who loves his father or his mother more than me is not worthy of me,*” He was not intending to be possessive about love nor to discredit human love, but was making it clear that only the love that passes through Him can arrive at perfection. This means loving each person through Christ.² No one is a disciple of Jesus through family inheritance, but only through a personal choice that can put even the most sacred family ties in crisis.

¹ Pope Benedict XVI, in his first Encyclical “God is Love,”(Rome, December 2005), makes this beautiful and universal distinction: 1) erotic love (*eros*); 2) fraternal love or affection (*filia*); 3) charitable love (*agape*).

² The love of God is absolute; the love of our human ties is relative. The first precedes, instructs, and transcends the second.

The love that Jesus wants from us is charitable love. We have a profound responsibility to embrace it. This means to receive the other person where he is; to humble ourselves in order to equalize the relationship; and to give him our gift, not as a donation, but as a recognition of the presence and gift of God. When we love like that, we allow God to love through us. Only then is our love complete and full, and made perfect.

But how do we take the first steps to love like that? Let us meditate on these three proposals:

1-Let our love be welcoming.

Not as a possession or for enjoyment, but for service and gift.

This means to anticipate the needs of others, not only of those who ask for help from me, but also of those whom I meet in any dealing or relationship. Like the prophet Elisha and the woman who invited him to eat in the city of Shunem. As we heard in the first reading, she received him and involved herself in meeting his needs; she had the sensitivity to see him as a prophet. And he, in the same way, received her. He saw her deepest need: to have a son. The result: a marvelous interchange of welcoming love and accompaniment.

Is there anything more beautiful than the practice of love like this? How are we receiving others...those in our home, those who approach us, and those who are needy for love?

2-Let our love look to the community of shared destiny.

If we were incorporated into Christ through baptism, we form a community whose solidarity creates a community of common destiny with Jesus the Messiah. The practice of our love will be valued enough if we consider this perspective of brotherhood in God.

When we take this perspective into account in our actions, dying to ourselves, we leave the order of injustice and self-centeredness and are born into a new order centered in God, with His love and His grace.

To love looking at the community of shared destiny, we have the spiritual resources³ that allow us to build our new personality.

3-Let our love make us disciples.

We are worthy of Jesus if we bind ourselves to Him without reserve, even giving our life for Him and for His mission.

The realization of discipleship comes from bearing the presence of Christ and the Father in our lives. That is the reward that God gives to whoever receives Jesus: full communication with God the Father.

The persons of God that one has to receive are the prophets, the just, and the children. They come to us not by random fate, but by the mystery of God, as envoys.

³ The grace of each Sacrament, especially of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. The experience of God.

To be a disciple of Jesus, as each of us wants to be, is accomplished by loving with the love that Jesus wants.