

## YOU HAVE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE

*Human beings, by nature, are religious beings; we seek answers about everything around us, including God and also our final destiny.*

*Therefore, the question the scholar of the law asks Jesus, according to what we have heard in the Gospel of Matthew, is not surprising.*

*What must I do to attain eternal life?*

*Jesus answers with another question: what is written in the law?*

*It is worth pausing here to remember that Jewish law represents what the Torah represents for the Hebrews: it is the law contained in the first five books of Sacred Scripture.*

*We close this parenthesis, and the scholar of the law answers Jesus that loving God with all one's strength, with all one's heart, and with all one's soul, and loving one's neighbor as oneself is the path to eternal life.*

*Jesus confirms this answer and invites him to put it into practice, saying, "This is what you will live."*

*Connecting this teaching with the first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy, what does the covenant made by God with the people of Israel remind us of. He invites them to listen to His voice and fulfill His commandments; they are within their reach and beyond their strength.*

*Therefore, love for God consists first and foremost in listening to Him, silencing our hearts so that His voice may resonate within us. And each of us must ask Him, "Lord, what do you want from me?"*

*Once we have heard Him and known the commandments of God's law, we must prepare ourselves with all our being to fulfill them.*

*Let us not forget that we are invited to discover who my neighbor is.*

*And we can say that my neighbor is the one who comes into my life, unannounced, and who requires my help, my service, my solidarity. A neighbor is someone who invites me to act as God has acted with me.*

*It means acting like the Samaritan in the parable we just heard, where Jesus tells us to go and do the same; that is, act with compassion, with mercy, in the likeness of God our Father.*