

Annunciation Parish - Scripture Study 10/20/20

—Greeting and Opening Prayer

Any thoughts or questions from scripture passages you have read?

- Other faith questions?

READINGS:

EX 22:20-26

PS 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 (I love you, Lord, my strength)

1 THES 1:5C-10

MT 22:34-40

GOSPEL:

- Pharisees come to Jesus only after he silences Sadducees.
- Yet they are still “testing him” -
 - They ask for a dig law that is the greatest. There are hundreds - this pounds like a real hard question to answer - and even harder to “get right” without dispute
- Jesus’ response is to quote scripture (Dt 6:45) — the Shema - recited by all devout Jews
- They could not argue with that, and it is possible to contain observance of all the other laws within it. We may ask how devoted we are in our whole person to God?
- He does not stop with the greatest commandment, but also gives the second. Love of neighbor as self. This is one that we may have some difficulty with as well. Why? Who is to be loved here?
- The law and prophets revolve around these two “summary” laws.

FIRST READING:

- Comes off the second of the two great commandments.
 - Note that although many wanted to define “neighbor” as a fellow Jew (or even a Jew of a specific observance). More is indicated here.
 - Jesus will clarify who is neighbor in another place - but see, already in the prophets the voice of God calls out. Even if you press the alien he will hear their cries.
- The actions that are prohibited are those which are not loving to the neighbor.
- God is compassionate. So much for the mean God of the Old Testament - there is only one God (so also says the Shema).
- What are the most concrete ways to show love to a neighbor? What are some of the less obvious?
- How does love of God become tied up in love of neighbor?

SECOND READING:

- Receive the word of God and become models for others. Difficult expectation.
- The Word sounds forth in our actions - those that honor God, and those that help neighbor.
 - Both are needed, remember the first and greatest commandment is the love and devotion to God. Sometimes this is let go for the second. Both must be in concert
- Notice that Paul first mentions their turning from idols to open the way for the service of God.
- Turn from idols first, serve the true God (the first commandment), and you will naturally do the second commandment. The second flows from the first.

—Closing Prayer