

God's great plan is to free us from sin and the whole Bible tells us that He came to seek and save those who were lost.

To accomplish this work of salvation, He offers us several steps. First, He gives us rules, commandments that will help us to live in harmony. When we live in society, it is important to respect each other. The first reading tells us that we have to choose: on the one hand, the life that results from keeping the commandments and on the other hand, death which is the sanction of pride. The Lord wants to free us from everything that destroys our lives. He invites us to accept his words which are those of "eternal life"

In the Gospel, Jesus goes back to the law that was passed down by God to the elders. It was an essential minimum for life in society: do not kill, do not steal, do not deceive ... For Jesus, it is out of the question to remove these gains; on the contrary, he invites his disciples and each of us to go even further. It's like in a family, the scrupulous practice of internal regulations is not enough to make them happy: they need solidarity, hospitality, sharing and above all love.

To make himself understood, Jesus enters the concrete of people's lives: "You have learned that it was said to the elders: You will not commit murder ... Well, I say to you: whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment. Jesus reminds us that words can kill: slander, harassment, racist speech is a poison that causes significant damage. Likewise the backbiters that kill the fame of people. Today Jesus offers us the perfection of love. If we refuse to make peace with our neighbor, we cannot say that we love God. Before showing our devotion in prayer, we are invited to reconcile with him.

What Jesus expects from us is a life filled with love: "Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect".

This is what Jesus lived to the end: he forgave Zacchaeus; he did not throw a stone at the adulterous woman, but forgave her; he forgave Peter who had just denied him. Many parables still tell us what true love is: we know that of the lost sheep and that of the prodigal son. It is this love that must be shown in our lives.

This is the path of conversion that Jesus offers us. Pope Francis tells us that we should not praise God with the same language that insults our brother. That one is not to be done. If we want to praise God, we must do everything to agree among ourselves. We ask the Lord to help us out of our grudges and our inflexibility. We cannot live as children of God without living together as brothers. What will make the value of our life is the quality of our love for all those around us. This is what we will be judged on.

By reading this Gospel, we recognize that in one way or another, we are all guilty. Now to enter the Kingdom of God, one must have a perfectly pure heart. Nothing unclean can live in the presence of God. We cannot achieve this purity with our poor human means. But with God, everything is possible: We are invited to open ourselves to him by praying often, loving very much, receiving the sacrament of forgiveness and participating in the Eucharist. If we embark on this path of conversion, God will purify us; then we will be those pure hearts that see God. God will be in us and we will be in him.