

# BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



Fr. Thomas M. Pastorius

October 26, 2014

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 148

Gospel [mt 22:34-40](#)

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

**Spiritual Reflection:**

*Combines today's Gospel with 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a:* Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

**Spiritual Question:**

1. How well do we live out St. Paul's definition of love when it comes to our relationship with God?
2. How well do we live out St. Paul's definition of love when it comes to our relationship with others?
3. How well do we live out St. Paul's definition of love when it comes to our relationship with our self?
4. Why are these the greatest commandments?
5. What does it mean to say "God is love"?