

Sunday, October 29, 2023

Scripture Reading: Matthew 22:34-46

Don't throw stones at your neighbors if your own windows are glass.

—*Benjamin Franklin*

A Franciscan monk in Australia was assigned to be a sort of guide and “gofer” to Mother Teresa as she visited New South Wales. He was thrilled at the prospect of being so close to this great and holy woman. What would they talk about in the many hours they would spend together, he wondered?

Yet as her visit unfolded, he became frustrated. Although he was constantly near Mother Teresa, the Franciscan brother never had an opportunity to speak more than a few words to her — and then, always about practical matters. There were always so many other people for her to meet.

Finally, her tour was over and she was due to fly on to New Guinea, her next stop. In desperation, the Franciscan friar approached Mother Teresa and pleaded, “If I pay my own fare to New Guinea, could I sit next to you on the plane, so I can talk with you and learn from you?”

Mother Teresa looked at him. “You have enough money to pay airfare to New Guinea?”

“Yes,” he replied eagerly.

“Then give that money to the poor,” she said. “You’ll learn more from that than anything I can tell you.”

In today’s Bible reading, when Jesus is asked to identify the greatest commandment, he says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (vv. 37-39).

Although loving God may be *passionless*, it is not *passive*. This was Mother Teresa’s message. One cannot love God without being responsive to God. Jesus himself taught us how to love God.

We must live life in a way that responds to God ... with our hearts and our souls and our minds. This is why we give to the poor and advocate on their behalf.

In other words, our love for God is not passive love; on the contrary, it is very active, visible and demonstrative. In fact, to use the words *heart*, *soul* and *mind* pretty much covers everything that we are — our total selves.

This is how we are to love God: with everything in our being ... all that we are ... the best versions of ourselves. When we love God, we’re all in. Nothing is held back.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Loving and merciful God, I am all in. I withhold nothing. Amen.

*Blessings on Reformation Sunday,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Motz*

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 2 Corinthians 4-6

Monday: Nehemiah 10-13

Tuesday: Micah 1-4

Wednesday: 2 Corinthians 7-9

Thursday: 2 Corinthians 10-13

Friday: Acts 20-22

Saturday: Psalms 127-129

Verse to Remember

*Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain. —Psalm 127:1*

Walk the line

DIRECTIONS: Below you see letters of the alphabet above or below the line. Think about why they are arranged in this way. Finish writing the alphabet by correctly putting the letters either above or below the line.

A E F H I K L M N

B C D G J O P

The Family Motto

DIRECTIONS: This motto can be seen over the fireplace of the 18th-century home of the McFarland family, but some of the letters have fallen off. What is the motto?

S _ R _ K _ W _ I _ E _ H _ I _ O _ ' S H _ T

100!

Take the numbers

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

and arrange them so that they add up to 100.



Answers

100:
1 6
2 14
34 23
56 57
7 —
— 100
100

Walk the Line:
The letters above
the line are made
with straight lines;
the letters be-
low the line have
curves.

**The Family
Motto:**
"Strike
While the
Iron's
Hot"