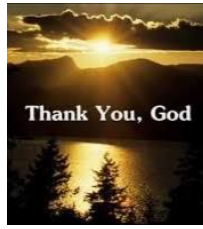


7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C



THE GOSPEL Luke 6:27-38

Give and gifts will be given to you.

Injured?
Offer the other cheek.
There is only embrace and kiss.

Don't lend and demand repayment, you say.
There is only give all your money, or whatever you have.
There is no get-that-cloak-back when someone takes your coat.
Instead, buy the person a wardrobe.

God of inexhaustible love,
pour your gift of love on us, over us and within us,
all of it, shaken down, overflowing.
Let us love each other well,
with your own
prodigal,
radical,
love.

THE FIRST READING 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

"I would not harm the Lord's anointed."

Lord,
let us do no harm,
never return hit for hit.
Guide us to where you live
in our souls.

God of pardoning love,
help us always
to forgive.

THE SECOND READING. 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

*Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one,
we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.*

Christ,
we are only earth.

But you open us to you.

We go up to heaven through you.
Heaven comes down to us through you.

You are the gate, the gate keeper
the one who opens us
to make all earth
holy.

Thank You. (Annie Osdieck)

REFLECTION: Another Wisdom

We all know that you must love your friends, and love those who love you. We know that you can't let people get away with slapping you in the face. We know that when someone takes something away from you, steps must be taken to have the stolen goods returned. We know that when you lend someone something, you expect them to pay it back. We know that criminals are to be judged, and wrongdoers are to be condemned.

Such things are obvious. They are part of the wisdom of the ages that has been passed on to us, and which we are passing on to our children.

But there is another wisdom, that revealed in God's Son and for which we pray in the opening prayer. According to this wisdom, you are to love your enemies, bless those who curse you, give people your other cheek to slap, offer more goods to those who are taking things from you, lend without expecting repayment, and go through life without judging or condemning anyone. This is the wisdom Jesus challenges us with in his sermon.

"Faith in your word is the way to wisdom." How much "faith" are we to put in Jesus' words? Are we to take them literally, or at least very seriously? What would happen if Christians everywhere were to base their lives on such wisdom?

Jesus yielded up his life for us in perfect loving union with the Father's will, and this is the meaning of his life which also gives meaning to our lives as his followers. If we can acknowledge selfishness as folly and self-sacrifice as victory, if we can love enemies, be vulnerable to injustice and, in being so, still say that we have triumphed, then we shall have learned to live in Christ Jesus.