

7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A



If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand over your cloak as well. Gospel:

Matthew 5:38-48

Who
can turn
the other cheek,
give away their coat,
go two miles instead of one,
love enemies and pray for all those
who persecute them?

Us?

Not without you, Lord.

As you did from your cross, let us wage love, not war.
Help us go way beyond being nonviolent.
Give us generosity of spirit.
We want to love
as you
do.

THE FIRST READING Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

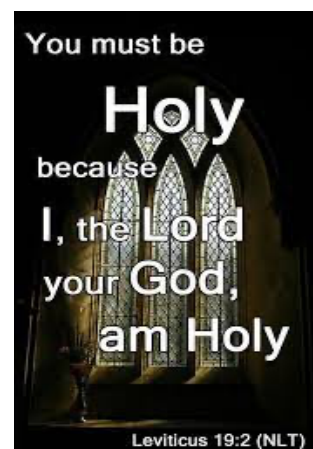
Lord, you told us we should be holy.
and love our neighbors
as
ourselves.

No half-measures in our loving.
No play-acting.

All our
Neighbors as ourselves.

Give us your grace.

It's the only thing we will need. (Annie Osdieck)



THE SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

*Do you not know that you are the temple of God,
and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

Holy Spirit,
come dwell in us.
Make us temples of God.

Take all our prayers and weave them into your own.
Inform our every choice, every struggle.

We wait for your Holy Breath.
Open us to you.
we ask
this.

The Temple of God?

The [First Reading](#) says: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” and “be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.”

Impossible. To love as God does.

What does God’s love look like?

The [Responsorial Psalm](#) puts it this way:



The Lord is kind and merciful. He pardons all your iniquities, heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion.

This description of God sounds comforting.

But can you and I possibly try to love the way God does, even if we work hard?



The [Gospel](#) has Jesus’ own guidelines for doing so. As he did last week, Jesus quotes the old laws and then he opens them up, giving us a view of their insides.

Real love is what we are after, the kind Jesus describes and which God makes possible in us.

(John Foley SJ)

