

WORD FROM THE PASTOR



HE CAME TO SEEK AND SAVE ALL

The word of God for this Sunday speaks to us of a God who has seen the misery of His people. This misery is that which comes from sin, selfishness, and division. God's great plan is to free us from it. The entire 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 live in harmony. When we live in society, it is important to respect one another.** We cannot do whatever we want. The first reading tells us that we have a choice: on the one hand, the life that results from observing the commandments; on the other hand, death, which is the punishment for pride. The Lord wants to free us from everything that destroys our lives. He invites us to welcome His words, which are the words "of eternal life."

Saint Paul addresses Christians who came from the pagan world. They have accepted the message of the Gospel. But today, he invites them to truly make "the choice of God." To speak to us about this, he does not use the so-called "wisdom of those who rule the world," those very people who committed the infamous injustice of crucifying "the Lord of glory." **"What is foolishness in the eyes of men is wisdom in the eyes of God." It is in this wisdom of God that we find true life.** The Holy Spirit makes us adults in faith. He helps us to go against the current of the world's mentality and to truly enter God's plan.

In the Gospel, Jesus returns to the law that was transmitted by God to the ancients. It was a necessary minimum for life in society: not to kill, not to steal, not to deceive... For Jesus, it is out of the question to abolish these principles; on the contrary, He invites His disciples and each of us to go even further. It's like in a family: the scrupulous adherence to internal rules is not enough to make it happy; it needs solidarity, hospitality, sharing, and above all, love.

What Jesus expects of us is a life filled with love: "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." This is the path of conversion that Jesus proposes to us. Pope Francis told us that we should not praise God with the same tongue that insults our brother. That is unacceptable. If we want to praise God, we must do everything we can to be reconciled with one another. We ask the Lord to help us overcome our resentments and our rigidity. **We cannot live as children of God without living together as brothers and sisters. What will give value to our lives is the quality of our love for all those around us. It is on this that we will be judged.**

By reading this Gospel, we recognize that we are all guilty. However, to enter the Kingdom of God, one must have a perfectly pure heart. Nothing impure can live in the presence of God. We cannot achieve this purity with our meager human means. **But with God, all things are possible: We are invited to open ourselves to Him by praying often, by loving deeply, by receiving the sacrament of reconciliation, and by participating in the Eucharist. If we commit ourselves to this path of conversion, God will purify us; then we will be those pure hearts who see God. God will be in us, and we in Him.**

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