

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, September 10, 2017

Bishop Robert Barron tells us that St. Augustine gave us very specific rules for reading the Bible. The good saint tells us that if our interpretation of what we have read leads us anywhere other than to the two greatest commandments (1. Love God with your whole heart, mind and soul and 2. Love your neighbor as yourself) then we are in trouble.

Imagine my delight when I discover that this Sunday's second reading, Romans 13:8-10, is telling us precisely why truly loving our neighbor is the fulfillment of the law. If we truly love our neighbor we simply cannot do any evil to him. LOVE is obviously the answer.

So with this reading sandwiched between the first and third we should be able to keep our goal in mind.

In the first reading, Ezekiel 33:7-9, our Lord is telling Ezekiel that he is responsible for warning the wicked ones in the house of Israel to mend their ways. I am reminded of our Lady of Fatima telling us to "pray for the poor sinners". This however is taking it up a notch. Relating this to the twenty-first century has already been done for us by the Church in the present effort of stewardship and discipleship. We are simply asked to love our neighbor by witnessing our faith and providing for God's people. LOVE is the answer.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 18:15-20, Jesus is talking to His disciples. He may have noticed some bickering or discontent among the folks and possibly a little absence of love? Jesus is telling them they must reconcile their differences by whatever means necessary even if it means going to the Church or priest. He tells them that whatever they bind on earth will be bound in Heaven, and whatever they loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven. Once this reconciliation has taken place then pray to God our Father, for where two or three are gathered together in Jesus name, He is in their midst. LOVE is definitely the answer.

Sharon Crowley