

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Matthew 22:34–40

“What If the Greatest Sin Is the Love We Never Gave?”

There is a frightening possibility that most of us rarely consider. We can go through an entire lifetime without ever committing some terrible, scandalous sin—and still fail to become the people God created us to be. Not because of the evil we committed, but because of the love we withheld. Think about that... The forgiveness we could have offered, but didn't. The kindness we could have shown, but couldn't be bothered to show. The person who needed us, but we were too busy to notice. The words “I love you” that remained unspoken until there was no one left to hear them. And perhaps that is what makes today's Gospel so profoundly challenging.

A scholar of the Law asks Jesus, “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He wants to know which law matters most. And Jesus answers with something far more demanding than simply following a rule. Love... Love God with your whole heart, your whole soul, and your whole mind. And love your neighbor as yourself. Notice something extraordinary. Jesus does not simply command us to avoid evil. He commands us to do good. To love. And there is an enormous difference. Because we can spend our entire lives avoiding what is wrong... without ever doing what is *truly* right.

We can pride ourselves on the people we have never hurt, while forgetting the people we have never helped. We can congratulate ourselves for the cruel words we never spoke, while ignoring the comforting words we never offered. We can convince ourselves that we are good Christians simply because we have done nothing particularly bad. But Christianity was never meant to be the absence of evil. It was meant to be the presence of love. AGAIN... Christianity was never meant to be the absence of evil. It was meant to be the presence of love. And that changes how we examine our lives. Perhaps the question is not simply, “What sins have I committed?” Perhaps we must also ask: “Where was love needed, and was I there?”

Because sometimes the deepest wounds we leave in another person's life are not caused by something we did. They are caused by something we failed to do. A parent who never heard our gratitude. A friend whose suffering we never noticed. Someone who waited for our forgiveness until... waiting was all they had left. And the uncomfortable truth is... One day, we will run out of opportunities to love the people God has placed in our lives. There will be a final conversation. A final embrace. A final opportunity to say, “I'm sorry.” And most of us will never know when that moment has arrived.

BUT... the Gospel is not meant to leave us frightened or drowning in regret. It is meant to awaken us. Because the God who commands us to love is the God who first loved us. And on the Cross, Christ revealed that love is not measured by what we feel, BUT... by what we are willing to give. Jesus held nothing back. And through His grace, He invites us to do the same.

My friends, perhaps holiness is not always found in extraordinary sacrifices. Sometimes it begins with a phone call we have been putting off. A forgiveness we have been withholding. A kindness we keep postponing. Because the tragedy of life is not simply that one day we will die. It is that we may reach that day carrying love we never had the courage to give.

But today, we still have that opportunity. To heal what has been wounded. To say what has been left unsaid. To make someone's life a little more beautiful simply because we are part of it. So, love deeply, forgive freely, and never leave for tomorrow the love you can give today.