



VII Sunday – 19th of February 2023 - Cycle A

## LOVE YOUR WAY, LORD



**RETURN WELL**

### SETTING

Right now you are the reason and meaning of my life. I make silence to listen to life, that life that has taste of you that taste of home that dissolves in close gestures and words that are kind.

To be silent is to open the senses to the being that is in each creature to discover the god that they carry inside.

Respond to provocation with serenity, from the acceptance that leads you to be, done and communicate well.

In your own way, discover yourself in life, not the one I see or want, but the one you want, make the other person feel more person, more human and dignified.

Giving me, as you want, wherever you want makes me keep looking at your face and from you, always being close to the other, to life, carrying in my heart your world to which I am sent to live, in another way, to yours.

## **SONG. LOVE OUR ENEMIES – John Mark**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=at9zb8MHglk>

### **GOSPEL: Mathew: 5, 38-48**

“You have heard that it was said: An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Well, I tell you: do not resist evil; rather, whoever slaps you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well: whoever wants to sue you to take your tunic, leave him your cloak too; and whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to whoever asks you, and to whomever you want to lend something, do not turn your back on him. "You have heard that it was said: You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy. For I say to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your heavenly Father, who makes his sun rise on the bad and good, and rain on the just and unjust. Because if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? Do not the sinners do the same thing? And if you only greet your friends, what are you doing privately? Do not the Gentiles also do the same? You, therefore, be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect."

### **Let us deepen in the gospel**

To begin, a precision of vocabulary: Jesus says: “You have heard that it was said: You will love your neighbour and you will hate your enemy”. Actually, we will not find anywhere in the Old Testament the commandment to hate our enemies and Jesus knows it better than we do. But this is a way of speaking in Hebrew and it means: start now by loving your neighbour. The ambition is modest, but it is a first step. In today's text, precisely, we are invited to move on to the second stage. The love of our neighbour must be achieved and, to achieve this, we are invited, from now on, to also love our enemies. Another big thigs can shock us in today's gospel: Jesus says: "You know that it was said an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth", is what we call the law of retaliation. Indeed, this saying is in the Old Testament; it may seem cruel to us but we cannot forget that it represents considerable progress! In Israel, this saying appears in the book of Exodus to impose a regulation of revenge: that is right, from the law the punishment is limited and must be proportional to the offense.

God's pedagogy is active to free humanity from hatred. That is right, to truly resemble God, there is still a long way to go, but this is a stage. Jesu's Sermon on the Mount, proposes to overcome the last stage: to look like our heavenly Father is to forbid us from counterattacking and, with every slap in the face, turning the other cheek. Why prohibit, from now on, all gestures of revenge and hatred? Simply to become truly what we are: the children of our Father who is in heaven. Because, in fact, if we look at it carefully, this text is a lesson about God before it is a lesson for us: Jesus reveals to us who God truly is. The Old Testament had already said that God the Father is tender and merciful; slow to anger and full of love. God entrusts us with the mission of being his reflection in the world: "You, then, be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." Jesus is in the logic of the Spirit of love and kindness. Only she can hasten the coming of the Kingdom... provided that we do not forget what we are and Saint Paul reminds us: "Do not forget that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you".

### **Imaginative Contemplation**

- Read the text serenely, listen and keep in your heart what is said in it.
- What do you feel? What words arise in your heart?
- Perform an act of nonviolence.

### **AMBIENTAL MUSIC. Long Past Gone - JAMI SIEBER**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFMjWPRIPVw>

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**I DO GOOD FOR OTHERS** **YOU INSPIRE MY LIFE**

### **RETURN WELL**

Always listen from

Availability and you, on the other.

Return well, in words,

Be just, the sensible, the  
simplest.  
Towards other's needs.  
Return well, in gestures,  
That the others may  
understand,  
Although sometimes they  
demand.  
Return fine, in spaces,  
That they be repairmen,  
Serene Spaces,  
Of friends who cars and  
Loves us.  
Return well, in looks,  
That welcomes, that penetrate  
slowly,  
Without hurting or making  
noise.  
Return well, in hope,  
And dream that lift,  
That excite  
Return well, on the way  
What we do together  
Return well, in projects,  
In which the others  
They are the protagonists, not  
me.  
Return well, in your own way,  
In being, in speaking, in  
walking,  
In understanding what  
provokes me,

And generates responses not  
yours.  
Jesus teach me  
To make it possible  
The fair, the most humane,  
The friend, the brotherly.  
Do not resist evil  
Accept, give field to the  
enemy,  
The one whom something  
happens,  
To the one who feels lesser,  
And reacts imposing.  
Accept, growing every day,  
Not you or me  
If not us.  
In front of the ear  
Facing revenge,  
Facing the fight without  
reason,  
In the face of caused death,  
Against mistreatment and  
abuse,  
Against discard  
And the lack of compassion,  
Against the hurtful word,  
Against unfair trial,  
Faced with the lack of detail,  
Versus being ignored.  
Return well,  
Your way, lord  
Your way

**SONG. – Here I am: Joel**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HoE-q8bSrzM>



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