

The Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 31, 2021

Today in the Gospel we have the Greatest Commandment: “To love the Lord your God with all your heart, Soul...Mind...strength.”. This is the way the Passage read in Deuteronomy. However, Jesus adds: “The second is this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself”. What happened here? Jesus moved this scripture one step further into the depth of God. Yes, Love of God is First, primary.

So, what is it like to “love” God? I’m sure if I were to ask you do you love God, you would say Sure, I love God. Then I ask, how does that feel? When we love someone, we have a recipient to that love. How do we know God?

In the middle ages we have writers, we may call them mystics, who Have written thoughts and ideas attempting to name God. *St Catherine of Genoa [1447-115-10] My deepest me is God!*
And of course, Meister Eckhart:

So you want to find God?
Empty yourself of everything---
Your worries and your hopes,
Your wishes and your fears.
For when you are finally
Empathy, God will find you,
Because God cannot tolerate
Emptiness and will come
To fill you with himself.

Book of the Heart, Jon Sweeney and Mark Burrows

My point is that these mystics, these spiritual men and women speak of God and Love of God as deep within the human being. So, it seems that it could be that the “other” i.e., our neighbor, our loved ones, carry the image of the depth of God within them. And we carry that back.

So, discovering God may be only as strange as discovering one’s core self.