

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

FEELING LOVED

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

The greatest commandment (Matthew 22: 34-46)

The final round of conflict between Jesus and the Jewish authorities before the Passion Narrative is presented in Matthew 22 in terms of three test questions designed to stir up political controversy (about paying taxes to Rome), theological controversy (about the resurrection of the dead), and legal controversy (about the Law of God). In reply to the third test question (which commandment is greatest), Jesus cites two texts from the Old Testament. This answer sums up the centrality of love within the Christian gospel: love for God and love for others. The Christian concept of love, however, is far from simple and may take a lifetime of discipleship to develop.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *feeling loved*.

Extracts from the Gospel passage (Matthew 22: 37-40)

Jesus said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it:

“You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’

Gospel prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you show unfailing love to your people.
Teach us to love you
with all our heart,
with all our soul,
and with all our mind,
that we may walk with you
all the days of our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on the way in which Jesus handles the question from the lawyers about which commandment in the law is the greatest in Matthew 22: 34-46

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

Thinking and talking

- how does Matthew understand the job of lawyers; what do they study?
- how do you see Jesus' first-hand knowledge of the law in his reply?
- how do you read Matthew's concluding sentence 'On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets'?
- what do you understand by love?
- how should we interpret this teaching for today?

Using your Bible

Matthew both abbreviates his primary source from Mark and also adds important ideas in his own voice. See his source:

- Mark 12: 28-37

Explore passages in the Old Testament that establish teaching on love:

- Deuteronomy 6: 4-5
- Leviticus 19: 18
- Psalm 18: 1-6

Exploring online

- explore the Law of Moses
- explore love in the Bible
- explore *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams

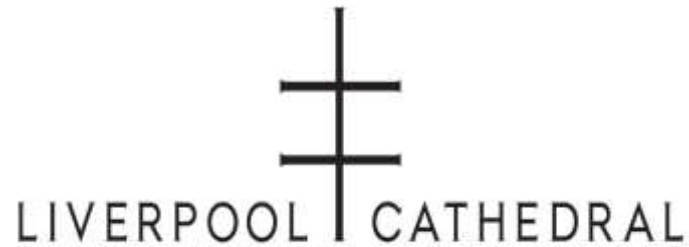
Drawing on experience

- reflect on your experience of feeling loved
- reflect on your experience of loving God
- reflect on your experience of sharing in God's love for others

PROPER 25 (YEAR A) SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 2020

Creating and making

- make a collage of the Velveteen Rabbit and the Skin Horse learning about the power of love
- make a poster illustrating how we show love to God
- make a poster illustrating how we show God's love to others
- create a reflection, poem or prayer on the theme of feeling loved



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



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