

Reflection Friday 3rd Week Lent 2024

Listen again to the words of Jesus. So often we hear Jesus challenging the scribes and pharisees for their duplicity and hypocrisy rarely does he praise them:

The scribe said, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one God and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him anymore.

Doesn't Love your neighbour as yourself imply that you need to love yourself first? Surely that is also why we want to be filled with God's love so that we can be instruments of God's love to others?

This poem might help understand this better:

Fall in Love: by Joseph Whelan, SJ and often attributed to Pedro Arrupe, SJ

Nothing is more practical than
finding God, than falling in Love
in a quite absolute, final way.
What you are in love with,
what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.
It will decide
what will get you out of bed in the morning,
what you do with your evenings,
how you spend your weekends,
what you read, whom you know,
what breaks your heart,
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.
Fall in Love, stay in love,
and it will decide everything.

Thank God for the love we receive from Jesus!