

Today's Readings 15C ***It's Not Complicated!***

There are times when life seems so complicated, and there are times we make our Catholic faith more complicated than it is. Catholicism, to be sure, is a very structured faith, and this can be both good and bad. On the one hand, it is good because it presents us with a detailed way to understand and live our faith in Christ. But on the other hand, we can become overwhelmed by its many rules and regulations. And when we are, we throw up our hands and say "it is too complicated!" But as today's readings teach us, it doesn't have to be that way.

It Is Not Too Mysterious and Remote

In today's first reading, taken from the Book of Deuteronomy, Paul reminds the Israelites of the Law that God gave them at Mount Sinai. He tells them that if they obey God's Law, God will bless them. But lest they become discouraged and think that the Law of God is too difficult to obey, Moses reminds them that the commandments that God has given to them are not too mysterious or remote from them. God's Law is very near; it is already in their mouth and in their hearts. All they need to do is to heed it. It's not complicated.

Go and Do Likewise

In today's gospel, a scholar of the Law asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus then asks him what the Law says. The scholar answers correctly, but then he complicates matters by asking, "And who is my neighbor," as if this were a question too difficult to answer. Jesus replies with the well-known parable of the Good Samaritan in which he shows the scholar that his neighbor is anyone in need. You see, it's not complicated, but we often make it complicated.

Turn to the Lord, and You Will Live

In today's responsorial psalm we sing: "turn to the Lord, and you will live! Again, it's not complicated, but we make it so. Do you want to live the fullness of life? Then turn to the Lord. Do you want to enjoy the presence of God in our lives? Then turn to the Lord. Turn to the Lord and your life will be turned around. It's simple! It's not complicated!

The Image of the Invisible God

Who is Christ? Why should I turn to him? What difference will it make in my life? In his letter to the Colossians, St. Paul gives this answer. Christ is the image of the invisible God. Christ is the one through whom God created and reconciled the world. Christ is the head of all creation. Christ is the head of the church. It is a mystery; but it is not complicated. We should turn to the Lord because in the Lord dwells the fullness of God.

It's Not Complicated

Our faith is a mystery. Our faith has many facets. But the essence of our faith is simple; it is not complicated. Christ is the image of God who saves and redeems us. And so we ought to do God's will and assist those in need. It's not complicated. *Father Matera*