

# BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

November 3, 2024 • 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time • Mark 12:28-34

## To Know, Know, Know Him Is to Love, Love, Love Him

*In this reading a scribe asks Jesus which is the greatest commandment. When Jesus answers the question, the scribe makes it clear he understands and agrees with what Jesus has said. Jesus' answer was so impressive that no one dared to question him after that.*

In this Gospel all Ten Commandments are summed up in just two statements. First, we are to know and love God with all our heart, understanding and strength. The second is like the first; Jesus tells us we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. Jesus makes sure that those listening recognize the fact that understanding these two commandments is more important than any prayers or offerings and will lead to the kingdom of God.

The two commandments Jesus gives us can really be seen as just one. When we come to know and love God, we open ourselves to God's love. Filled with God's love we have no choice but to share that love with others. Experiencing God's love, which is unconditional and all consuming, enables us to love ourselves and everyone else. To come to know and love God is to come to know and love all others and ourselves.

The key is to be open to discovering who God is over and over again in our lifetime. Since we never outgrow our need to learn about God, we must continue to pray, study and talk to people, sharing our image of God and listening to theirs. God is and will always be a mystery, but the mystery that

is God continually reaches out to us, asking us to reach back.

I remember the lines to a popular song when I was growing up, "To know, know, know him is to love, love, love him." Those words are certainly true of God. We need to grow in our understanding of God so that we can grow in our capacity to love. And as parents, our job is to help our children do the same, praying, studying and listening to them share their ideas about God and sharing our own ideas with them.

### FAMILY RESPONSE

Have paper and pencils ready and ask each person to draw a picture of how they "see" God. Talk about what you have drawn.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

How does God fit into your everyday life right now? Who is God in your life today? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?