

**Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Lectionary: 56**

**Reading 1: Acts. 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48**

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 98:1, 2-3, 3-4**

**Reading 2: 1 Jn. 4:7-10**

**Alleluia: Jn. 14:23**

**Gospel: Jn. 15:9-17**

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### **Love as I have loved you**

In a world so full of violence, the message of today does us a lot of good, especially for those countries submerged in destructive wars, where hatred and selfish interests prevail over human values and respect for the dignity of people.

In the three readings today we hear about the message of love. The love that God has for his people, a perfect love manifested in Christ. It is true that God chosen a nation to be his particular people, but the love of God cannot be minimized to just a few. The love of God embraces all regarding looks, race, creed and so on. We will focus on three points today, 1) the love of the Father towards the Son; 2) the love of the Son towards his disciples and 3) the love of the disciples towards others.

#### **1). First, the love of the Father towards the Son:**

How do we know the Father, nobody has seen the Father, then we need to ask ourselves some questions, **What is the essence of the Father?** Just by looking at creation we assume that God the father is: omniscient; omnipotent; omnipresent, holy, perfect, pure, wise and so on. All of those are attributes of God and they are good, but

there is one attribute that defines him more perfectly according to St. John the Evangelist, “**God is love**” “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” (1 John 4:8) and because God so loved the world that he sent his only Son into the world not to condemn it but to save it, (Jn. 3:15-17). Then how can we know the Father? Through the Son as Jesus reassured Philip, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father” (Jn. 14:9). The Father sent the Son to gather everything back to himself with a mission of Love.

## **2. Second, the love of the Son towards his disciples:**

Jesus told his disciples, “As the Father loves me, so I also love you” (Jn. 15:9). Therefore, we can apply the words of the prophet Jeremiah, “I have loved you with an everlasting love” (Jeremiah 31:3). Christ came into the world to share the love of the Father, Jesus walked in this world doing acts of love to all those he encountered. If you think that Mother Theresa was kind, she was nothing compared to Christ love. If you think of the biggest preacher that you have ever heard, it was nothing to the wisdom Jesus had. If you think of the big sacrifice that Saint Maximilian Coble did to save the life of one man, it was nothing compared to the sacrifice of Christ in the Cross. Then, how can we repay that love?

## **3. Third, the love of the disciples towards others:**

We can ask the very same question that Philip asked Jesus, “Show us the Father” we have never seen Jesus, and yet, he tells us to love one another as he loved us. The disciples had the mission to show the love of Christ to those they encounter in their lives. It was hard for them; it is also hard for us. But Jesus tells us all to remain in his

love; his love is perfect, pure, unconditional. Then, how do we express the love of Christ starting with our own family? Because we cannot love our neighbor unless we love those who are dearest to us, love begins in the same roof where there are many personalities, different ways to approach life, different ideas. Jesus gives us a commandment, “Remain united in love” then express that love to those around you. So that when people see you, they may encounter the love of the Father in the Son through you.

Why it is important to express love in the family with words and deed? Because the son and daughter will do what they experience in the house according to Jesus, (Jn. 5:19) If they see violence, lies, hate, where everything is resolved through arguing, bad words and so on, so are the kids will follow that path.

May the love of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit unite us and lead us to live fully the commandment of love.