



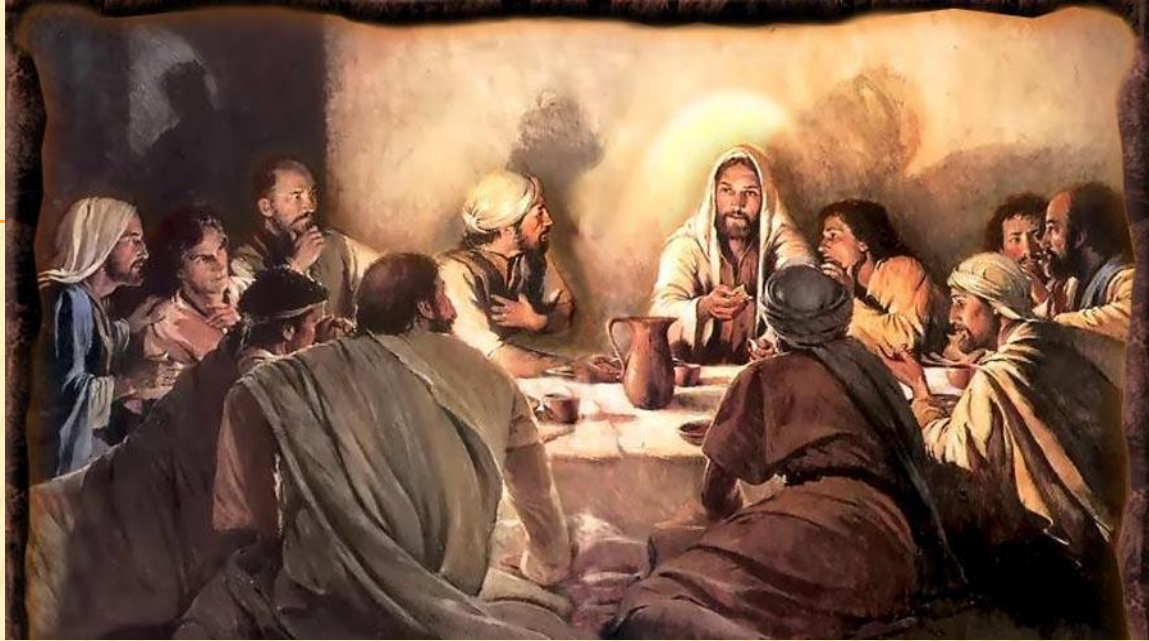
TEACHINGS OF JESUS

CATECHETICAL TEXTBOOK SERIES OF THE SYRO - MALABAR CHURCH

Lesson 12

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT





Just before His death on the cross Jesus celebrated the Pascal feast with His disciples. At the times of supper Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment. It was the commandment of love. The commandment of love is the sum and substance of what He taught in His public life. Jesus, who explained and completed the Ten Commandment of love is the sum and substance of what He taught in His public life. Jesus, who explained and completed Ten Commandments given by the Lord our God in the Old Testament, gave the New Commandment of love as its fullness “ Love one another Just as I have loved you”. (Jn 13:34).

THE SUBSTANCE OF THE COMMANDMENTS



The substance or core of the commandments is love. Commandment make it clear that it is love that must lead/control human life. Jesus thought that the first and important commandment is to love God and the second commandment of fraternal charity is equally important Love of God and love of our brethren are the two sides of the same coin.

LOVE OF GOD



It is the right and duty of creatures to love God who is love Himself. God created us of the fullness of love. It is the same God who saves us and protects us. Jesus enables us to love God and to Him Abba, father.

Jesus has shown us how to love God. **We must express our love for God by giving first place to God in our lives, obeying His commandments, praising, adoring and thanking Him and doing deeds of charity.**

LOVE OF OUR BRETHREN



If one says that he loves God and then hates his brother, he tells a lie because if you cannot love your brother who is seen, then you cannot love God who is unseen. We have received this commandment from Christ. Those who love God must love his brethren (1 Jn.4:20-21). Then hallmarks of Christian life is fraternal charity. Jesus sacrificed His own life man and thus revealed His love for God. Jesus taught the same through the parable of the Good.

A Christian cannot ignore a person who deserves love and compassion. Every Christian should remember that all men are God's children and it is our duty to love and help all. We must express our fraternal charity through deeds.

Acts of charity have a significant place in the life of a Christian. On the day of the last judgment, Christ will judge us on the basis of fraternal charity. Hence we must practice charity from an early age.

It must begin in families. Children should learn the primary lessons of love by loving their parents and brothers and sisters. In our schools, among our friends and in various circumstances of life. We must be models of love.

LOVE OF ENEMY: THE CLIMAX OF FRATERNAL LOVE



By dying on the Cross at Golgotha Jesus gave us the great example of love of the enemy. People mocked Jesus while he suffered intensely on the cross Jesus who never committed a mistake and was yet wrongly accused prayed on the cross. **Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.** (Lk.23:34). Jesus Prayed for those who hurt Him. The words and actions of Jesus originated from love. He never considered anyone His enemy. He loved even those who considered Him as an enemy. **Thus loving even enemies, He revealed to us that the climax of love is love of the enemy.** This lesson of love of the enemy has never been taught by anyone else in the history of the world.

THE EXHORTATION OF JESUS



The nature of the world is to love only those who love us . But the exhortation of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour is contrary. He taught us You have heard, love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I tell you: Love your enemy, and bless those who persecute you (Mt. 5:43-44).

Jesus explains how we can practise love of the enemy. **Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you; pray for those who laugh at you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, turn the other, too** (Lk. 6:27-29).



Thus He taught various ways to express love of the enemy. The same message is given in the Lords Prayer, “ Forgive us as we forgive those who sin against us”. It means that God will not forgive us if we do not forgive others. This condition convinces us of the necessity of loving our enemies. Hence let us accept our enemies as our friends by forgiving them, loving them and praying for them. **It is human to make mistakes. But to forgive is a divine action. When we forgive others, we share in the divine nature.**

THE NEW COMMANDMENT OF JESUS



On the occasion of the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and wiped them. After this action of humility and love, Jesus said to his disciples. “ I have given you an example” (Jn 13:15). After that, Jesus gave Them a commandment: “ I give you commandment. Love one another just as I have you. If you love one another. All will know by that, that you are my disciples.” (Jn.13:34-35). Jesus who explained and interpreted all commandments summed up all of them in the only commandment of love. He asked his disciples to love one another as He loved them. The means to show this love are deeds of mercy.



There are certain special features in the love of Jesus. It is a love without selfishness, it is a love that commits Himself for service of others. It is a love that forgives even His enemies; It is a love without conditions; it is a sacrificial love, a love that leads everyone to God.

These features of the love of Jesus should be evident in our love too. Then only we would become His real disciples. We must be able to grow and persevere in love. If we can love like Jesus, we will be able to experience heaven here, on this earth.

Deeds of Mercy

Physical



Physical

1. Feed the hungry
2. Give a drink to the thirsty.
3. Cloth the naked.
4. Give shelter to the homeless.
5. Visit the sick and the prisoners.
6. Help the poor and the needy
7. Bury the dead.

1. Teach the ignorant
2. Counsel the doubtful.
3. Comfort the suffering.
4. Admonish the sinners.
5. Forgive offences.
6. Bear wrongs patiently.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.



LET US PRAY

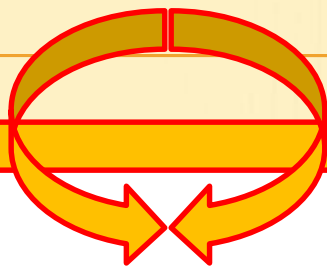
Jesus, who gave us the noble model of charity, help us to love one another as you have loved us.



LET US READ AND NARRATE

Jn. 13: 1-12





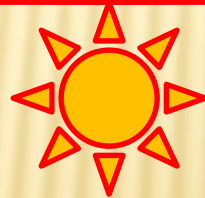
WORD OF GOD FOR GUIDANCE

“ If I, your Lord and Master washed your feet, you should also wash the feet of one another.”

(Jn. 13:14)

LET US DO:

Write the names of 5 saints or who followed the model of love given by Jesus who lived as models of love after Jesus.



MY RESOLUTION

Each day I will do at least one deed of mercy.

FIND OUT THE ANSWER

1. What is the substance of all the commandments?
2. A Christian cannot ignore those who deserve love and compassion, why?
3. What are the special features of the love of Jesus?
4. How many deeds of mercy are there? Which are they?
5. What must we do to experience heaven here, on earth?



THANK YOU