

# SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



**Wednesday October 25<sup>th</sup> for the 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**OPENING PRAYER:** Loving and compassionate God, today you place before us the Great Commandment of Love. You call us to love the stranger and people at risk in our society. Fill us with your love for all people and breathe your Spirit upon us as we gather to share life and your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen

## **READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL**

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

### **Matthew 22:34-40**

*[last Sunday's Gospel precedes this passage; Jesus is in Jerusalem shortly before his death]*

23 On that day Sadducees approached him, saying that there is no resurrection.\*

They put this question to him,

24 saying, “Teacher, Moses said, ‘If a man dies\* without children, his brother shall marry his wife and raise up descendants for his brother.’

25 Now there were seven brothers among us.

The first married and died and, having no descendants, left his wife to his brother.

26 The same happened with the second and the third, through all seven.

27 Finally the woman died.

28 Now at the resurrection, of the seven, whose wife will she be? For they all had been married to her.”

29\* Jesus said to them in reply,

“You are misled because you do not know the scriptures or the power of God.

30 At the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage but are like the angels in heaven.

31 And concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you\* by God,

32<sup>h</sup> ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.”

33 When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at his teaching.

**34 When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees,**

**they gathered together,**

**35 and one of them, a scholar of the law tested him by asking,**

**36 "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"**

**37 He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart,**

**with all your soul, and with all your mind.**

**38 This is the greatest and the first commandment.**

**39 The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

**40 The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."**

\* [22:34–40] The Marcan parallel (Mk 12:28–34) is an exchange between Jesus and a scribe who is impressed by the way in which Jesus has conducted himself in the previous controversy (Mk 12:28), who compliments him for the answer he gives him (Mk 12:32), and who is said by Jesus to be “not far from the kingdom of God” (Mk 12:34). Matthew has sharpened that scene. The questioner, as the representative of other Pharisees, tests Jesus by his question (Mt 22:34–35), and both his reaction to Jesus’ reply and Jesus’ commendation of him are lacking.

\* [22:35] [A scholar of the law]: meaning “scribe.” Although this reading is supported by the vast majority of textual witnesses, it is the only time that the Greek word so translated occurs in Matthew. It is relatively frequent in Luke, and there is reason to think that it may have been added here by a copyist since it occurs in the Lucan parallel (Lk 10:25–28). Tested: see note on Mt 19:3.

\* [22:36] For the devout Jew all the commandments were to be kept with equal care, but there is evidence of preoccupation in Jewish sources with the question put to Jesus.

\* [22:37–38] Cf. Dt 6:5. Matthew omits the first part of Mark’s fuller quotation (Mk 12:29; Dt 6:4–5), probably because he considered its monotheistic emphasis needless for his church. The love of God must engage the total person (heart, soul, mind).

\* [22:39] Jesus goes beyond the extent of the question put to him and joins to the greatest and the first commandment a second, that of love of neighbor, Lv 19:18; see note on Mt 19:18–19. This combination of the two commandments may already have been made in Judaism.

\* [22:40] The double commandment is the source from which the whole law and the prophets are derived.

## **Thoughts and reflection on the Gospel Passage**

### **QUESTIONS FOR SHARING**

1. When it comes to civil law or church law, do you tend to be a strict follower of the law?
2. Jesus was constantly challenging the traditional beliefs and interpretations of the law as seen by the scribes and Pharisees. Would you say you are usually open to new ideas or new insights—or resistant?
3. The Great Commandment includes ‘love of self.’ What is the difference between selfish love and true love of self? What does the latter mean?
4. What is Jesus saying to you this Sunday about how a faithful disciple should act?

### **Commentary**

Having failed to trap Jesus on the question of paying taxes, the Pharisees try it again. This time they have an expert in the law raise the question frequently asked of rabbis in those days: “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the

greatest?” Jesus’ answer combines two quotations from Deuteronomy and Leviticus. From Deuteronomy 6:5, Jesus takes these words: “You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength.” From Leviticus 10 19:18, Jesus adds: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Jesus and the Pharisees do not dispute the importance of the law. Their disagreement has to do with emphasis. The Pharisees, who tend to be legalistic, underscore compliance to the law. In contrast, Jesus places emphasis on love. Also, the Great Commandment joins together love of God and neighbor—something that has not been previously done. In one of his epistles, John remarks: “How can you say you love God whom you do not see when you do not love your neighbor whom you can see” (1Jn 4:20).

## **IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?**

## **IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?**

## **CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord’s Prayer**

Bible Sharing Room 5 and Zoom  
Starting Oct 25 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm EST Weekly on Wednesday  
notes

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting  
Time: Oct 25, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZIKd-qgrj8qG9Rt4LoXWaku9w9Mo6AzLDCs/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGupzspEtSRsBiHRpwAHYigb\\_zziClfjfpviEvJDBhkYwjjb\\_UbH7opMcL8](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86903804010?pwd=MGJydS9qSW9LSzNGbUZSM2xZcWpGZz09)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86903804010?pwd=MGJydS9qSW9LSzNGbUZSM2xZcWpGZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 0380 4010  
Passcode: 086586 One tap mobile  
+13017158592,

