

“Keep My Commandments”

John 14:23-29

Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

25 “All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

28 “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

- Like last week, we are still in the part of the Gospel of John called the Farewell Discourse. (John 13-17)
- Jesus says that anyone who loves him will obey his commandments.
- What are his commandments?
 - Last week, we learned about the New Commandment: “Love one another as I have loved you.”
 - That reminds us of what we sometimes call the Great Commandment: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength: and love your neighbor as yourself.”
 - The Great Commandment is a summary of the Ten Commandments. (Romans 12:8-10)
 - The Ten Commandments are a summary of the 613 Commandments in the Old Testament.
- It helps a little to understand that there are three types of law in the Old Testament: Moral, Civil, and Ceremonial.
 - In the New Testament, we see much of the civil and ceremonial law repealed. However, the moral law remains in effect.
 - In fact, Jesus raises the bar. He says anger is equal to murder and lust is equal to adultery.
 - If Jesus and the New Testament are silent on an Old Testament moral law, it stands as given.
- The great news is that Jesus does not expect us to be perfect and he does not expect us to do it without help. He promises us the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Let us show our love for Jesus by keeping his commandments.