

JULY 13 2025 FATHER TOMASZ SKIBINSKI

There is sometimes such a division between what we hear, what is right to do, and actually what we do, or between what the law is saying and how to fulfil it in a practical way.

That has always been a question. Today, we heard in the first reading this beautiful word from the book of Deuteronomy, in which Moses speaks to the people saying, "Obey the Lord, fulfil the law, obey the commandments, listen to them. They're not too difficult. They're not too far away from you." And, "This word is near to you," it says, because it's true that God has written a law in our hearts, a law that goes deeper than just the mere words, that is the law of love.

Saint Paul will say in one of his letters that "the fulfilment of the law is love." This is exactly what Jesus aims at in the Gospel that we have just heard. That is something more than the law. You see both a priest and then a Levite who came across this man that was beaten up and left half dead, they are following the law; they pass him by. Why? Because they don't want to be made unclean, because then they wouldn't be able to do their rituals and things like that.

But the Samaritan, a pagan, one that was considered nobody, is moved with pity. But not a pity that is something cheap, but something very profound, something that really shows this attitude that God himself has for us, that is this visceral love that comes from within, that is willing to give himself and of itself for the sake of the other.

You know, it's true that we live in a society in which it is maybe today much easier, not in a physical way, but in many other ways, with our words, with what we write, with the messages we send, to inflict injuries, to inflict wounds on people. But it is not an easy thing to stop, to stoop down, to waste our time for the sake of the other and to touch their wounds.

This man was not afraid to bandage the wounds, to pour some oil and some wine, which, as some saints comment on it, are the signs of baptism and the Eucharist as well. This is how our wounds are cured. But this man really gives of himself, not only of himself, but of his resources. He takes out two denarii, he pays for him. And he says, "Whatever else you spend, I will give you back. Don't worry, I will repay you."

This Gospel is full of images that are so packed with different things that it would be too much to explain them all, there is no time to do it. But it's something very beautiful because, ultimately, brothers and sisters, the point is this: we have been that man going down from Jerusalem to Jericho — which is going down, literally. Jerusalem is high up, Jericho is in the depression. Whenever we go away from Jerusalem, from the truth, from the light, we fall into the hands of the robbers.

The one who stoops down, the one who gave of himself is Jesus Christ. It is he who took us upon himself, who has taken us to this inn that is the Church, that is a place for everyone, where there is a place for everyone, and he has paid for us, not only two denarii, but he has really given his very life, his very blood for us, so that we may receive this life back.

So, today, we give thanks to the Lord for this gift of his love, of his mercy, mercy above all. This is the fulfilment of the law, which is to love beyond measure.