

Gospel Lesson for the Week

May 2, 2010

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Please Read

[John 13:31-35](#)

Read also

[Acts 11:1-18](#)

[Revelation 21:1-6](#)

[Psalm 148](#)

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

--- John 13:34

THE SHAPE OF LOVE

There is a song we sing
"They'll know we are Christians by our love."
It comes from this verse.
More than that,
it comes from all the Gospel story.
Each page, each chapter tells the tale.
Each verse reiterates the truth:

Not by our creeds, our orthodoxy,
 unless that creed is rooted in love;
not by our liturgical correctness,
 unless our liturgy sings love lovingly;
not by our praise-band enthusiasm
 unless our enthusiasm is in praise of Love;
not by our passion for social justice,
 unless that passion is fueled by love.

And what is the shape of the love
that is our identity tag
as disciples of Jesus Christ?
He said it must replicate *his* love for *us*.
“Just as I have loved you,
you also should love one another”
He calls us to be Christ-clones.
The measuring stick of our discipleship
is the extent of our love for one another.
And the shape of that love is a cross.

--- rvc

(An encore meditation originally published May 6, 2007)



***** D I S C L A I M E R *****

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