



Catechesis At Home – Are We Sure We Know Jesus?

3rd Sunday of Easter – Year B

DISCUSSION

John tells us that “The way we may be sure that we know [Jesus] is to keep his commandments.” And he makes it pretty clear what we are if we say we love Jesus and do not keep his commandments: We are liars.

When we love Jesus with all our heart, all our being, all our strength, all our mind (Luke 10:27) we are incapable of sinning. Because Love is an *action*, our four attributes of emotional (heart), spiritual (being), physical (strength), and mental (mind) existence are doing all things for and in union – in *communion* – with Jesus Christ.

We are human, so we are sinners. Can we love Jesus without being liars at the same time?

Our love by definition is inadequate for The Lord. We can, and should, pursue our most perfect way to love Jesus, and when we falter, get back to it immediately, with a sorrow that is true and honest.

And because of our sinfulness, we should listen to the last part of the reading in John this week, to know that our love is nothing The Lord needs because it is not perfect. But by still pursuing perfect love – by us “keeping His word” (*His* commandments) as best He and we know we can – God will perfect *His love* in *us*.

And that is the ultimate joy.

ACTIVITY

This week at dinner each night, talk about how you loved God in your words today, but probably not in your actions. Parents should always start this type of conversation with their own examples, so that children feel more at ease sharing things they may think they will get in trouble for. This is not a time of punishment, but a time of helping each other, and we can best do that by loving, with mercy and justice. Parents can share work experiences – do you have a note on your desk or in your vehicle proclaiming Jesus’ importance in your life, but did not act like it today? Something similar – maybe a meme on social media you liked but then did not live up to it? Think of some practical examples so you can lead the children. Did you pray today and then think ugly thoughts about the person who cut you off on the way to work?

Children may find that they say they love Jesus at home but go with the crowd at school making fun of others, or looking at someone else’s quiz, or coveting a friend’s toy they brought to school and trying to think of a way to “accidentally” have it wind up in their backpack. Do this every night, to form a habit over the next week that parents and children can have for the rest of their lives – purposefully getting better at loving Jesus, and allowing God to perfect His love in us!

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