

OCTOBER 26, 2014



THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



EXODUS 22:20–26

PSALM 18:2–3, 3–4, 47, 51

1 THESSALONIANS 1:5C–10

MATTHEW 22:34–40

REFLECTION

If someone asked you what the most important rule or idea is for Catholics what would you say? If you're not sure, you could borrow Jesus's answer from Matthew's account of the Gospel. In today's reading, Jesus echoes and amplifies two traditional Jewish teachings: love God with everything you've got, and love your neighbor as yourself. Or as Rabbi Hillel, a Jewish sage from just before the time of Jesus, said: "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. That is the whole Torah; the rest is commentary. Go and study it." We see the roots of this teaching in the reading from Exodus. The warning to care for the vulnerable members of society—the widow, the orphan, the immigrant, the poor—is not optional. It is something we must do if we intend to be faithful followers. Love God, love your neighbor.

ACTION

Take some time this week and educate yourself about a social-justice issue. Find out about poverty rates in your area or issues facing immigrants. This website is a good place to start: www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/povertyusa/index.cfm. Make a commitment to do one thing about that issue, whether it is action or advocacy.



Learn about the Jewish sages:
www.jewfaq.org/sages.htm

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- What are some of the ways you can love God with your whole heart, your whole soul, and your whole mind?
- What do you think is harder to follow: the Ten Commandments or the Two Great Commandments given in today's Gospel? Why?