

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 31st SUNDAY YEAR-B-2024:

THIS IS THE FIRST AND THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT:

La illa allah Mohammed rasul allah(None to be worshipped except allah alone and Mohammed is his prophet).This is a prayer which must be recited by all muslim five times a day facing Mecca the Holy city.This is their creed and you must know this if you are a Muslim.It reminds them of their relationship with Allah and the honor for prophet Mohammed.The Jews on the other hand have **schem,daily recitation which connects them with Yahweh on daily basis. You must love the lord your God with all your,heart soul and strength.**All Jews must adhere to this and this and teach their children,it is their creed.It reminds them of their deliverance and relationship with the creator.

The laws guided the people of Israel and to date we cannot do without laws otherwise the world will be total chaos.The problem we have today just as we had during time of Jesus is the interpretation of the laws thus confusing the people.The lawyers,advocates,attorneys and legal experts classes of the learned friends play around with the interpretations thus causing more chaos.Todays gospel we see one of the learned friend approaching Jesus seeking the right direction of the greatest commandment.(Mk 12:28-34)Jesus quote for him (Deut 6:2-6) **love of God with all your heart and**

strength, he goes a step further in Leviticus (19:8) which talks of love of neighbour. Let's not forget the background of Jesus as a Jew. He is telling you and me that, **we cannot love God alone without loving the NEIGHBOUR, we must start with known to unknown.** Are we doing this as his followers? Whoever loves God must love his NEIGHBOUR and if not then he is a liar (1 Jn 4:20-21). The two commandments are inseparable indeed and very complex of love. The biggest misconception about love today is **equating love with feelings only, having nice, warm, friendly feelings towards one.** It should rather be what **one does rather than what one feels.** It is not always **painless, easy, carefree thing it requires unselfishness and sacrifice and submission.** We must learn to reach out to others. This is the measure of our commitments and identifying characteristic of Christianity. As we examine our conscience, we must address our duty to **love, to be honesty in business and politics, to have justice respect and cooperation in standing for the truth.** The greatest **failure of Christian's is failure to love and to be compromised by situations.** We must not divorce religion from life, they go hand in hand. All have capacity to love sadly we don't like using this powerful tool. Simple gesture to tell, one good morning, I love you or how are doing has a lot of impact more than revenge, retaliating or fault finding mission.

Jesus told the learned friend the lawyer you are not far from the kingdom of God if you are **following** these two great commandments **next step is put them into practice!**.to take that step,obvious we need the grace of God to touch our heart ***Lord open our heart when they are closed to others,soften them when they are hard,warm them when they are cold,fill them when empty,heal them when wounded and made them when they are broken.***

JESUS IS TELLING YOU TODAY,IF YOU LOVE ME KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS: