

LOVE HAS TWO SIDES

The first five Books of the Old Testament or Torah contained 613 commandments. These were expanded laws and regulations that derived from the Ten Commandments Moses had received from God on Mount Sinai.

It is no wonder that a Doctor of the Law asked Jesus the question: "which is the greatest commandment of the Law?"

Though the motive behind the question was not sincere, it gave Jesus the opportunity to lead his hearers to an examination of conscience and to teach them a great lesson: the Ten Commandments were meant to bring people to a personal relationship with God, their Creator and Father.

This is why Jesus, in his response to the Doctor of the Law, states that the greatest commandment is like the two sides of a coin: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself."

To love God the way Jesus tells it, makes clear for me the meaning of the first commandment in Moses' Decalogue: "I am the Lord your God, you shall have no other God but me".

Once I heard a Priest say during his homily that most Christians don't even realize that almost regularly they break the first commandment and, as a consequence, they never bring it to confession in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I quickly examined myself and had to agree with him.

If we truly loved God, we would give Him first priority and put Him first above all things at all times, and everything else would come second. This means that in all life circumstances, all our decisions and whatever we need to do should revolve around God.

WHEN FACED WITH A SITUATION WHERE YOU MAY HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN TWO DIFFERENT COURSES OF ACTION, DO YOU CHOOSE TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO YOUR CHRISTIAN VALUES, EVEN IF THAT MEANS GOING AGAINST THE POPULAR OPINION?

HOW DOES YOUR LOVE FOR GOD AND FOR NEIGHBOUR BECOME VISIBLE IN YOUR LIFE?