

Daily Homily  
Fifth Week of Easter: Thursday  
11 May 2023  
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A short Gospel today, but it packs a powerful punch.

These words are repeated throughout... love, commandments, and joy.

Love... The Bible, so it has been said by theologians, is the greatest love story ever told. St. Catherine of Siena said, "God is crazy in love with us." And Scripture itself says, "God is love" ... not just "God loves" or "God is like love." No, boldly – God is love. So all real love, like in the vocation Sacraments, goes back to loving God.

Commandments... yes, a lot of "thou shall not" among others. But given not to imprison us, but to free us. Given to us from a loving parent, who doesn't want to see us fall or get hurt in mind, body, or soul. If we adhere to those commandments we'll be fully free and fully alive. Given to us to protect us.

Joy... with love and freedom comes joy. Not a saccharine kind of happiness. Not a smile on our face hiding what's really going on deep down inside. But the kind of joy that no matter what is dished out to us, no matter how another may try to interfere with our peace of mind... still... there is a calm and a peace that no one can take away. Because we know our place as we remain in love that the Father has for the Son and the Son has for the Father, and what a great place that is.

Short Gospel ... long homily ... but all for God's powerful word.