

Commentary on the Gospel for Wed, May 4th 2011

In to-day's Gospel reading we meet one of the most popular and important texts of the New Testament, one which is the very essence of the gospel: 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son....' He shares all this with Nicodemus whom he has challenged and chided and is now encouraging. We are reminded that it is God who has taken the initiative to send his Son, 'so that through him the world might be saved'.

God's love for humankind is immutable; God cannot help loving the world and he can't help loving you and me. Whatever my response God's love is always there, always available, and I don't have to earn it. God doesn't love me any more if I am good; that love is constant, but, as Jesus tells Nicodemus, we sometimes prefer the darkness, and that is what shuts us off from God's light. All I have to do is open myself to receive God's love, his light, his life. It sounds simple but it is a lifetime's work. The reward is eternal life, not just in the next world but beginning now!

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