Introduction to Mark 12:28–34

مقدمة لإنجيل مرقس ١٢: ٢٨-٤٣

God's will as expressed in the Law - His commandments - is the central theme of the Old Testament and of Judaism. In the past, and still today, Jewish people have discussed and continue to discuss how God's will in the Law should be interpreted and applied in the present. Jesus, the Son of God and, as a human being, a Jew, also engaged in such discussions during His time on earth with representatives of other Jewish traditions. One such conversation, in which Jesus speaks about the most important of God's commandments, is recorded in the Gospel of Mark, chapter 12. We will now hear this reading in both German and Persian. Sajjad will interpret this biblical text for us in his sermon today.

اتُعدّ مشيئة الله في الشريعة، أي وصاياه، الموضوع الرئيسي في العهد القديم واليهودية. وقد ناقش اليهود، ولا يزالون، كيفية تفسير وتطبيق مشيئة الله في الشريعة في عصرنا. كما ناقش يسوع، ابن الله، وهو يهودي كإنسان، مع ممثلي الطوائف اليهودية الأخرى خلال حياته الأرضية جوهر مشيئة الله في وصاياه. ويرد في الإصحاح الثاني عشر من إنجيل مرقس حوارٌ كهذا مع يسوع حول أهم وصايا الله سنستمع الآن إلى هذه القراءة باللغتين الألمانية والفارسية. وسيُفسر لنا سجاد هذا المقطع الكتابي في عظته البوم.

MARK 12:28-34

مرقس ۲۸:۲۸ مرقس

28 One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which commandment is the foremost of all?"

29 Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is one Lord;

30 and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

31The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

٢٨. فَجَاءَ وَاحِدٌ مِنَ الْكُتَّابِ وَسَمِعَهُمْ يُحَاوِرُونَ، فَلَمَّا رَأَى أَنَّهُ أَجَابَهُمْ حَسَنًا، سَأَلَهُ: «أَيَّةُ وَصِيَّةٍ هِيَ أُوَّلُ الْكُلِّ؟ » ٢٩. فَأَجَابَهُ يَسُوعُ: «إِنَّ أُوَّلَ كُلِّ الْوَصَايَا هِيَ: اسْمَعْ يَا إِسْرَائِيلُ. الرَّبُّ إِلَهُنَا رَبُّ وَاحِدْ. • ٣. وَتُحِبُّ الرَّبُّ إِلَهَكَ مِنْ كُلِّ قَلْبِكَ، وَمِنْ كُلِّ نَفْسِكَ، وَمِنْ كُلِّ فِكْرِكَ، وَمِنْ كُلِّ قُوَّتِكَ. هذِهِ هِيَ الْوَصِيَّةُ الأَولَى. ٣١. وَثَانِيَةٌ مِثْلُهَا هِيَ: تُحِبُّ قَرِيبَكَ كَنَفْسِكَ. لَيْسَ وَصِيَّةٌ أُخْرَى أعْظَمَ مِنْ هاتَيْن.»

32The scribe said to Him, "Right, Teacher; You have truly stated that He is one, and there is no one else besides Him; and to love Him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength,

33 and to love one's neighbor as himself, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.

34 "When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions.

٣٢. فَقَالَ لَهُ الْكَاتِبُ: «جَيِّدًا يَا مُعَلِّمُ. بِالْحَقِّ قُلْتَ، لأَنَّهُ اللَّهُ وَاحِدٌ وَلَيْسَ آخَرُ سِوَاهُ. ٣٣. وَمَحَبَّتُهُ مِنْ كُلِّ الْقَلْب، وَمِنْ كُلِّ الْفَهْم، وَمِنْ كُلِّ النَّفْسِ، وَمِنْ كُلِّ النَّفْسِ، وَمِنْ كُلِّ الْقُوَّةِ، وَمَحَبَّةُ الْقَريبِ كَالنَّفْسِ، هِيَ أَفْضَلُ مِنْ جَمِيعِ الْمُحْرَقَاتِ وَالذَّبَائِحِ.» ٤٣. فَلَمَّا رَأَى يَسُوعُ أَنَّهُ أَجَابَ بِعَقْلَ، قَالَ لَهُ: «لَسْتَ بَعِيدًا عَنْ مَلَكُوتِ اللَّهِ». وَلَمْ يَجْسُرْ أَحَدُ بَعْدُ أَنْ يَسْأَلُهُ.

Sermon by Sajjad Taghidoust – 24 August 2025 – Kreuzkirche on Mark 12:28–34

عظة للسيد سجاد تغيدوست بتاريخ 27/4/2025 حول إنجيل يوحنا 20: 19-29 في الأحد الأول بعد الفصح

Dear congregation,

1. This story takes place in the final days of Jesus' life. During that time, the Pharisees and scribes of the Jews were sent to challenge Jesus. They asked Him various religious questions in order to damage His reputation in the eyes of the people. Since they knew the Torah and the Holy Scriptures very well, they wanted to hear something from Him that went beyond the Torah so they could find a reason to accuse and condemn Him. But in the end, Jesus answered all of their questions wisely. Because of that, they gave Him other labels - such as sorcerer, someone connected with demons, or blasphemer - because of the things He said about the forgiveness of sins.

عزيزي المجتمع،

2. But among them was one scribe who was different from the rest. He asked Jesus a question not out of hatred or hostility, but in search of clarity. This conversation and the verbal exchange between Jesus and this Jewish scholar has something unique and astonishing about it - beyond the content of the question itself. A man who held a high position within his own religion and law opened his eyes when he heard the true message of Jesus, and he received it without prejudice.

٢. لقد كانوا بارعين في النصوص، يحفظون الشريعة والتوراة عن ظهر قلب، و يتعاملون معها بحر فية بار دة، لكن قلوبهم لم تكن مفتوحة لله لذلك كانوا يتصيدون أي كلمة يقولها يسوع لتكون خارج النصوص المكتوبة، ليقولوا إنه كسر الناموس. ومع ذلك، كلما سألوه سؤالًا، أجابهم بحكمة تفوق حكمتهم، وبحق يفوق إدراكهم. وفي كل مرة خرجوا خجلين، لأنهم لم يستطيعوا الإمساك عليه بشيء.

3. He affirmed Jesus. And Jesus responded to him: "You are not far from the kingdom of God." This shows us that even among people with strong religious prejudices and we know such people from our own experiences, including in our home countries - there are some who cannot resist the truth. Perhaps their hearts are open and prepared in such a way that Jesus and His message can be brought near to them.

٣. ولما لم يجدوا في إجاباته حجة، الجأوا إلى اتهامات أخرى قالوا عنه إنه ساحر، وإنه يستخدم قوى غريبة، أو إنه مر تبط بالشياطين. بل ذهبو ا أبعد من ذلك واتهموه بالتجديف، لأنه اتكلم عن سلطان مغفرة الخطايا -و هو أمر كانوا بظنون أنه خاص بالله وحده فقد حاولوا تشویه صورته بكل وسيلة، لكن كل محاولاتهم فشلت أمام نقاء كلماته و قو ة سلطانه

4. Jesus knew very well that the group coming to Him with questions about the Law was doing so to trap Him. He knew they were waiting for the slightest gap in His answers to find grounds for accusing and arresting Him. But He also knew that His answers would be heard in the presence of all people - and through them, even more truth would come to light.

٤. ومع ذلك، وسط كل هذا التعصب والكراهية، برز رجل مختلف كان واحدًا منهم، كاتبًا ذا مكانة في الشريعة، لكنه لم يأتِ ليسوع بدافع الحسد أو الحقد، بل بدافع صادق لطلب المعرفة والوضوح. كان قلبه منفتحًا أكثر من غيره، وعقله غير مسجون اتمامًا في التعصب الديني الذي کتل ز ملاءه

5. For Him, this was not a threat, but an opportunity. We often experience people attacking our beliefs to discourage or hurt us. But we should look at such situations through Jesus' eyes not as threats, but as golden opportunities to proclaim the truth. Be assured: God will give you the right answer at the right moment, placing it in your heart.

٥. الحوار الذي دار بين يسوع وذلك العالم اليهودي كان فريدًا ومثيرًا اللاعجاب لقد كان واحدًا من قادة الدين، شخصًا له مكانة عالية بين قومه، ومع ذلك عندما سمع إجابة يسوع لم يهاجمه، بل وجد قلبه يتجاوب مع الحق. كان مشهدًا نادرًا أن يعترف معلم من الشريعة بأن ما يقوله يسوع هو حق

6. Let us now turn to the answer Jesus gave to this question. In both parts of His answer, we encounter one central and decisive word: love. Jesus calls this the greatest commandment of God. From this we can conclude: Love is God's great goal and the golden commandment for our creation. There are two kinds of love mentioned here: love for God and love for fellow human beings. Both are of great importance.

أقرّ الكاتب بصحة كلمات يسوع، وأعلن أمام الجميع أن هذه هي الوصية العظمى عندها نظر إليه يسوع وقال له الكلمات المليئة بالرجاء: "لست بعيدًا عن ملكوت الله". يا لها من شهادة عظيمة أن تخرج من فم يسوع نفسه لرجل جاء في البداية كممتحِن، فخرج كشاهد

7. He says: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." This love cannot be an ordinary love. A love that comes from all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength means to give yourself completely into His hands. It means total devotion to Him. It means to live with Him in every moment of life.

٧ و هذا يعلمنا أن حتى بين الناس الذين يغلقون قلوبهم بالتعصب الديني أو الفكرى، هناك دائمًا بعض القلوب المستعدة للانفتاح على الحق. قد يكون فيهم شخص واحد لا يستطيع أن يقاوم كلمة الحق حين يلمس قلبه، فيتجاوب معها دون خوف لذلك لا يجب أن نيأس، بل نؤمن أن كلمة الحق قادرة أن تجد طريقها حتى إلى أصعب القلوب

8. It is no wonder that Jesus calls this the greatest commandment of God. The heart is understood as the seat of spiritual life or our inner being; the soul refers to a person's emotions and desires; strength refers to the capacity or energy to act. The addition of the mind means that human understanding and intelligence are also included. Every facet that drives human action - heart, soul, mind, and strength - is involved in the love of God and is required by Him. We cannot obey God without loving Him.

٨. كان يسوع يعرف تمامًا نوايا عن الحق، بل ليوقعوه في فخ ومع ذلك، لم يتجنبهم ولم يهرب من اسئلتهم، بل أجابهم علنًا أمام الجميع. لأنه كان يعرف أن كل كلمة يقولها ستصل إلى آذان كثيرة، وستفتح قلوبًا جديدة على النور. 9. But if we love Him, we will most certainly obey Him. Obedience that comes from compulsion, however, will eventually break down. At some point, one will ask: "Why am I even doing this?" - and begin to resist. But when love is present, a person will obey God and follow His path out of love and trust. God doesn't ask for much. He only wants your heart - the seat of your emotions, your inner being, and your decisions.

٩. لقد حوّل يسوع كل محاو لاتهم لإيذائه إلى فرصة لإعلان الحق. ما ظنه الآخرون تهديدًا، رآه هو مناسبة ذهبية ليعلن مشيئة الله وهكذا نحن أيضيًا، عندما يهاجم الناس إيماننا أو يسخر ون من معتقداتنا، يمكن أن نحزن أو نتراجع لكن يسوع يدعونا أن نرى تلك اللحظات كفر ص لنشهد اللحق، واثقين أن الله سيضع في قلوبنا الكلمة المناسبة في الوقت

10. The commandment that Jesus gives has two parts: love for God and love for one's neighbor. Jesus says that one cannot be done without the other. We cannot say, "I love God, and that is enough." Likewise, we cannot truly know how to love our neighbor without first loving God with all our heart. Our love for God is deeply connected to the way we treat those around us. If we truly love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, then our actions will reflect His love and grace toward others.

_ أما الجواب الذي أعطاه بسوع الذلك الكاتب، فكان في كلمة واحدة عظیمة تتكرر في كل الكتاب: "المحبّة". لم يضع يسوع قائمة اطويلة من الوصايا و لا شرحًا معقدًا، ابل أعاد كل الناموس والأنبياء إلى هذه الكلمة الجو هرية: أن تحب وقال إن هذه الوصية هي الأعظم بین جمیع و صایا الله

11. We are called not only to love God but also to love our neighbors as ourselves. This means showing compassion, empathy, and kindness to those around us, regardless of their background, faith, or life circumstances. Jesus describes these two commandments - love for God and love for our neighbor - as of the greatest importance. From this we can conclude that we can only truly experience and live in God's love when we are also loving and kind toward our fellow human beings. It is impossible to say: "I only want to love God and have nothing to do with people."

وفد اوضح بسوع ان هذه المحبة تنقسم إلى جانبين أساسيين لا ينفصلان: محبة الله أولًا، ثم محبة القريب لا يمكن تنفيذ إحداهما دون الأخرى. فالمحبة لله تفيض في القلب لتتحول إلى محبة للاخرين. ومن لأ يحب أخاه الذي يراه، كيف يستطيع أن بحب الله الذي لا براه؟

12. But who exactly is our neighbor? Does it only mean the person living next door? There was once a deaf man who wanted to visit his sick neighbor. He thought to himself: "I am deaf—how will I hear what the sick man says, and how will I talk with him? He is sick, and his voice is probably weak. But that doesn't matter. If I see his lips move, I'll know he's greeting me as usual." The deaf man prepared a conversation in his mind. It was supposed to go like this:

١٢. حين قال يسوع: "تحب الرب الهك من كل قلبك و من كل نفسك و من كل فكر ك و من كل قو تك"، لم ايقصد محبة عابرة أو سطحية، بل محبة شاملة تُخضع الكيان كله لله هذه المحبة تعنى ان يسلم الإنسان قلبه ومشاعره وأفكاره وأعماله بين يدي الله ليعيش له كل أيام حياته.

13. I'll say: "How are you?" - He'll say something like: "Good, thank God, I'm getting better." I'll say: "Thank God." - "What did you eat?" - "Soup or medicine." I'll say: "Enjoy your meal." - "Who is your doctor?" -"Doctor so-and-so." I'll say: "His visit is a blessing, he heals all the sick. We know him - a skilled doctor." After finishing this question-andanswer script in his head, the deaf man went to his neighbor, sat by his bed, and asked: "How are you?" - The sick man said: "I'm dying in pain." - The deaf man said: "Thank God."

۱۳ القلب هو مركز الوجدان الروحي، والنفس هي مشاعر الإنسان ورغباته، والقوة هي طاقته وقدرته على الفعل، والفكر هو عقله و و عيه و إدر اكه و كل هذه الأبعاد مجتمعة بجب أن تتجه نحو الله في علاقة محبة حقيقية. إن أحبينا الله ابهذا الشكل، فلن يبقى جانب من حیاتنا خارج سیادته

14. The sick man was horrified and thought: "This man is my enemy." The deaf man asked: "What are you eating?" - The sick man said: "Deadly poison." - The deaf man replied: "Enjoy your meal." The sick man became angry. The deaf man asked: "Who is your doctor?" - The sick man said: "The Angel of Death." - The deaf man said: "His coming is a blessing." The sick man's condition worsened. The deaf man left the house, thinking he had made a good hospital visit. But the sick man groaned and said: "This neighbor is my worst enemy." And so their friendship ended.

١٤ لكن إن حاولنا أن نطبعه بلا محبة، فإن طاعتنا ستتحظم سريعًا. لأن الطاعة المبنية على الإكراه أو العادة تضعف عند أول تجربة أما الطاعة النابعة من المحبة فهي ثابتة، لأنها لا تأتى من خوف أو ضغط، ابل من قلب ممتلئ بالثقة حين نحب الله، يصبح اتباع وصاياه فرحًا لا

15. To truly love, we must consider the needs of the other person. We must love in a way that is helpful to them - not simply in the way we think is best. A neighbor, in the biblical sense, is anyone we encounter in the course of life who needs our help or care. This could be a neighbor, a relative, a friend, or even a stranger on the street who crosses our path and whom we can reach out to and help. Sometimes even a smile or a kind word can spark joy and hope in someone's heart.

١٥ . الله في النهاية لا يطلب من الإنسان أشياء كثيرة معقدة، بل يطلب قلبه يطلب أن نضع مشاعرنا وكياننا وقراراتنا في يده وما أن بفعل الإنسان ذلك بمحبة، حتى يصبح كل ما يفعله تعبيرًا عن هذا الحب، لا مجرد التزام خارجي.

16. In recent years, we have seen and heard many heartbreaking stories. When the war in Ukraine began, I was there. As I crossed the border with my family to come to Europe, I saw a Ukrainian family saying goodbye to their father. Ukrainian men were not allowed to leave the country - they had to go to war. I saw a little girl hugging her father and crying as if she would never see him again. Every time I think of that scene, I ask myself: What fate befell that father? Did that child ever see her father again?

١٦٠. إن وصية يسوع العظمى ليست مجرد وصية واحدة، بل هي مزدوجة: محبة الله أولًا، ثم محبة القريب ولا يمكن لأحد أن ينفذ الأولى دون الثانية، ولا الثانية دون الأولى. فهما مر تبطتان ار تباطا لا ينفصم ومن يدعى أنه يحب الله لكنه يكره أخاه، فهو يخدع نفسه لأن المحبة لله الحقيقية لا بد أن تُترجم في محبة عملية ملموسة تجاه الناس.

17. In another place, we saw a young woman in Israel who had gone to a concert with her friends - she just wanted to enjoy herself. But she was captured by Hamas terrorists. Many of them were killed or taken hostage. Hours later, we saw her mother on TV with tear-filled eyes as images of her daughter were shown - halfnaked, being dragged through the city. The mother pleaded with the world for help.

١٧. محبتنا لله تظهر بوضوح في أسلوب تعاملنا مع الآخرين. فالقلب الذي امتلاً بمحبة الله لا يمكن أن ايفيض إلا رحمة ونعمة على من حوله من المستحبل أن تكون صلاتنا عميقة، لكن كلماتنا مع الآخرين قاسية وجافة فمحبتنا لله تنعكس في أبسط تفاصيل حياتنا اليومية، في الكلمة الطيبة، في المساعدة الصغيرة، في الغفران

18. And today we see thousands of people in Gaza whose homes have been destroyed, who have not had enough to eat for months, who are trapped - and no one can help them. These are just a few examples of the suffering in our world today suffering brought by war, hostility, greed for power, extremism, and terrorism. And the consequences are not borne by those who lit the fire, but by innocent people who bear no guilt at all.

١٨. و المقصود بمحبة القربب لبس أن نحب الذبن بشبهو ننا فقط، أو الذين بيادلوننا نفس العاطفة بل أن نُظهر تعاطفًا ورحمة ولطفًا مع كل إنسان، مهما كان أصله أو لونه أو دينه أو ظروفه يسوع وستع مفهوم "القريب" ليشمل كل من يعترض طريقنا ويحتاج إلى لمسة حب

19. What is astonishing is that all sides in these wars shout either nationalistic or religious slogans. They are convinced that they carry the love of God in their hearts. To justify themselves, they claim they must commit these atrocities in the name of protecting their people, their religion, and their God. But this is by no means God's will - it is pure Machiavellian thinking: the end justifies the means. And to reach that end, they will use anything - even God's name - to influence people.

ا ١٩. سألوا يومًا: "من هو قريبي؟" فأوضح يسوع أن القريب ليس مجرد جار بشار کك سور البيت، بل هو كل شخص يلتقى بك في طريق الحياة، كل من يحتاج إلى مساعدتك، سواء كان قرببًا أو غرببًا. إن القربب يمكن أن يكون إنسانًا لم تقابله من قبل، الكنه وُضع أمامك في لحظة معينة ليختبر محبة الله من خلالك

20. The significance of these commandments transcends historical and cultural boundaries and makes them universally applicable. In a world marked by division and conflict, the call to love God and neighbor remains a timeless principle that can lead individuals and communities toward harmony and unity. Imagine a society in which people genuinely strive, with all their strength, to live out the commandment to love their neighbor as themselves. In such a society, acts of mercy, support, and kindness would become the norm, revealing the transformative power of love.

٢٠ ولكي يوضح ذلك المعني، يزور جاره المريض. لأنه لم يكن بسمع جيدًا، أعد في ذهنه حوارًا كاملًا مسبقًا، ليتفادى الحرج. خطط لما سيقوله وما سيجيب به جاره، وتوقع أن تسير الأمور كما رسمها.

21. Since 2015, Germany has taken in thousands of refugees from war-torn countries such as Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. It has covered their costs, provided housing, and given financial support. Some critics say: If this money had been invested in recruiting skilled workers from various countries, Germany would not be facing a labor shortage today. So why did they do it?

۲۱ کن حین جلس عند سریر المريض، فوجئ أن إجاباته لم تتطابق مع ما جهزه فعندما قال له: "كبف حاللك؟" أجابه المريض: "أكاد أموت من الألم." فرد الأصم كما خطط: "الحمد شه." فظن المريض أنه يسخر منه وحين سأله: "ماذا أكلت؟" أجاب: "سمًا قاتلًا" فقال الأصم: "صحة وهنا." فظن المريض أنه يستهزئ به.

22. When these refugees arrived, it did not matter what religion they followed or what culture and customs they brought with them. Only one thing mattered: their lives were in danger because of war. In essence, Germany acted to save humanity regardless of skin color or origin. What Germany did, many other wealthy and powerful nations were not willing to do. And I am convinced - far from any flattery - that this country will be rewarded by God for this great service.

٢٢. وتتابع الحوار حتى شعر المربض أن هذا الرجل عدوه لا صديقه، بينما الأصم كان مقتنعًا أنه قد قام بزیارة رائعة! هنا ندرك أن المحبة الحقيقية ليست أن نحب كما نريد نحن، بل أن نحب بالطريقة التي يحتاجها الآخر فعلا المحبة لحقيقية تنظر إلى الآخر، لا إلى

23. Let us now return to our main topic. Jesus speaks of the love for God. And yet, in these verses, He makes it very clear that these two commandments are the greatest of all: to love God with all your heart - and likewise to love your neighbor. He did not say: "Love only your own people." He did not say: "Love only your own language, your family, or your ethnicity." He said: Love your neighbor - that means humanity, human dignity.

۲۳ و هكذا فالقريب هو أي شخص يحتاج إلى لمسة محبة أو مساعدة في حياتنا اليومية: جار، قريب، صديق، أو حتى إنسان غريب نصادفه بالصدفة أحيانًا لا نحتاج أن نقدم شيئًا ماديًا كبيرًا، بل مجرد ابتسامة أو كلمة مشجعة قد تُحبى قلبًا محطمًا وتفتح نافذة أمل جديدة في حياته.

24. What does it mean to love the Lord with all your heart and soul? Before we can love God, we must first know Him. God does not need our love. What He desires is to bring about a path of salvation and positive transformation within us. He wants us to understand His commandments through love - and to be changed by them. When we do not lie, we are first loving ourselves. When we do not sin, do not steal, do not betray - we are first doing good to ourselves.

۲۶. وفي مكان اخر راينا صورًا مر وعة لفتاة شابة ذهبت لحفل موسيقى في إسرائيل، لكنها اختُطفت على يد مسلحين. وبعد ساعات قليلة ظهرت صورها على الشاشات، و هي تُساق عار پة مهانة في الشوارع، بينما أمها تبكي أمام راجية أن بُنقذ أحد ابنتها. أي قلب لا ينكسر أمام هذه الماسي؟

25. Jesus said: "I did not come into the world to condemn you, but to love and to save you." In fact, it is love that brings about transformation. For us to become people in whom the purpose of creation is fulfilled, we must take the first step - by loving God and loving others. It is love that elevates faith from a physical level to a spiritual one.

٢٥. وفي غزة اليوم نرى الاف الناس بلا مأوى، جائعين و محاصر ين، يعيشون تحت الدمار منذ شهور. الأبرياء هم من يدفعون الثمن، ببنما الذبن أشعلوا نار الحروب يختبئون خلف الشعارات الدينية والقومية برفعون أسماء الله على راياتهم لتبرير القتل، لكن هذا اليس من الله في شيء.

26. Jesus is someone who loved in every situation. He met even sinners and enemies with love. Many criticized Him for showing love and kindness to His opponents. But Jesus saw something they did not see. He knew where He had come from, what His mission was, who had sent Him, and who honored Him. Jesus trusted God with all His heart and showed divine love to all people - something that even His closest disciples struggled to fully understand.

٢٦. وفي غزة اليوم نرى الاف الناس بلا مأوى، جائعين و محاصر بن، يعيشون تحت الدمار منذ شهور. الأبرياء هم من يدفعون الثمن، ببنما الذبن أشعلوا نار الحروب يختبئون خلف الشعارات الدينية و القومية برفعون أسماء الله على راياتهم لتبرير القتل، لكن هذا ليس من الله في شيء 27. We often tell ourselves that loving certain people might lead them to overstep boundaries and intrude into our lives. We think that if we love, we might make them bold or demanding. Perhaps that's because we have expectations in return for our love. But we must understand: it is always love that ultimately brings about change in this world and in people.

٢٧. إن وصية المحبة التي أعطاها يسوع تتجاوز كل الحدود القومية والدينية والثقافية. هي مبدأ عالمي، يمكنه وحده أن يجمع البشر ويوحدهم. تخيلوا مجتمعًا يعيش فيه الناس و هم يسعون بجد أن يحبوا الآخرين كما يحبون أنفسهم - كم سيكون هذا المجتمع مختلفًا؟ ستصبح الرحمة عادة، والمساندة أسلوب حياة، واللطف قاعدة لا استثناء.

28. In the beginning, love may seem ineffective or even vulnerable. On the cross, Jesus looked weak and wounded. He bore the burden of humanity's sin through His crucifixion and put God's love into action. But in that moment, no one understood it, and He was deeply alone. Yet in the end, it was love that completed its work and impact in the world - and glorified Jesus.

٢٨. ولنا مثال عملي في هذا في بلد مثل ألمانيا، التي منذ عام 2015 فتحت أبو ابها لآلاف اللاجئين من سوريا و العراق و أفغانستان. لم تسألهم عن دينهم أو ثقافتهم، بل نظرت إلى إنسانيتهم، وقدمت لهم المأوى والغذاء والأمان وبينما وقفت دول غنية كثيرة مكتوفة الأيدي، بادرت ألمانيا بعمل إنساني

29. When we lose a loved one forever, and we want to remember them, we always recall their acts of love. We try to tell others about the good things they did. Blessed is the one who is remembered in their lifetime for their love. Aristotle once said: God set the world in motion while remaining unmoved Himself - like a lover who stirs motion in the beloved. And in the First Letter of John it says: This is how we came to know God - not that we loved God, but that He loved us.

|29 أنا مقتنع أن مثل هذه المواقف لا تضيع أمام الله، لأنه يرى الأعمال التي تتم بدافع المحبة. المحبة ليست مجرد كلمات، بل هي مواقف عملية تغیر مصیر أناس أبریاء و هکذا تتجسد وصية المسيح "أحبب قريبك كنفسك" في واقع ملموس بلمسه 30. He has awakened His love within us. Yes, dear friends, He has loved us and placed within each of us the ability to know Him, so that we can experience and enjoy this love. The Gospel says that God is love. It does not say merely that He loves, but that He Himself is love, and that His very nature is love. He created us in His image, and that is why the core of our being is made of love. We cannot remove love from our lives or kill it within ourselves - because it is part of our very essence. And in the end, the measure of our humanity is the love we receive from our relationship with God and pass on to others. I pray that all of you may experience the beauty of love in every phase of life - and share it with others. Amen!

اعماق كياننا مخلوقة

صلاة

1. O merciful and infinite Lord,

You, the source of light and love from whom all things come forth,

today we stand before You with hearts longing for Your love and guidance.

O loving and gracious God,

light and life come from You alone,

and our hearts thirst for Your presence.

Show us how we can recognize and love You

with every breath, every glance, and every action.

Lord, ignite in our hearts the flame of Your love,

so that we may pass it on to others -

even to those whom we find difficult to love,

or who do not know us.

1. يا ربنا الرحيم اللامتناهي،

يا مصدر النور والمحبة الذي ينبثق منه كل شيء، نقف أمامك اليوم بقلوب تتوق إلى حبك وهداك.

يا إلهنا المُحبّ الرؤوف،

النور والحياة ينبعان منك في كل مكان،

وقلوبنا تتوق إلى حضورك.

أرنا كيف نعرفك

ونحبك مع كل نفس، وكل نظرة، وكل فعل.

يا ربّ، أشعل شعلة حبك في قلوبنا،

لننقلها إلى الآخرين،

حتى إلى من يصعب علينا التعامل معهم أو لا يعر فوننا.

2. Teach us to come to You in faith and trust in the heavy and dark moments of life.

O God, let Your love become visible in our actions,

flow into our words,

and shine in our eyes.

Great God, give us the strength

to see, understand, and share the beauty of love

in every moment of our daily lives.

May every step be an expression of Your love, and every glance a reminder of Your mercy.

3. Lord, today we pray for all members of this church: for those strong in faith, and for those still searching for You, for the sick who need healing, and for the lonely or brokenhearted, for those in pain and suffering, whose hope has grown weak, for the children, the youth, and the elderly, whose hearts are full of longing and desire.

4. O Lord, unite our hearts,
establish Your love among us,
so that we may support one another
with love, patience, and kindness.

O God, lead us each day on the path of love and service,

and teach us not only to keep Your love in our hearts,

but to carry it into the world through our words and actions.

Amen.