



“In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit...”
- Luke 10:21

A Simple but Difficult Way to God



Introduction

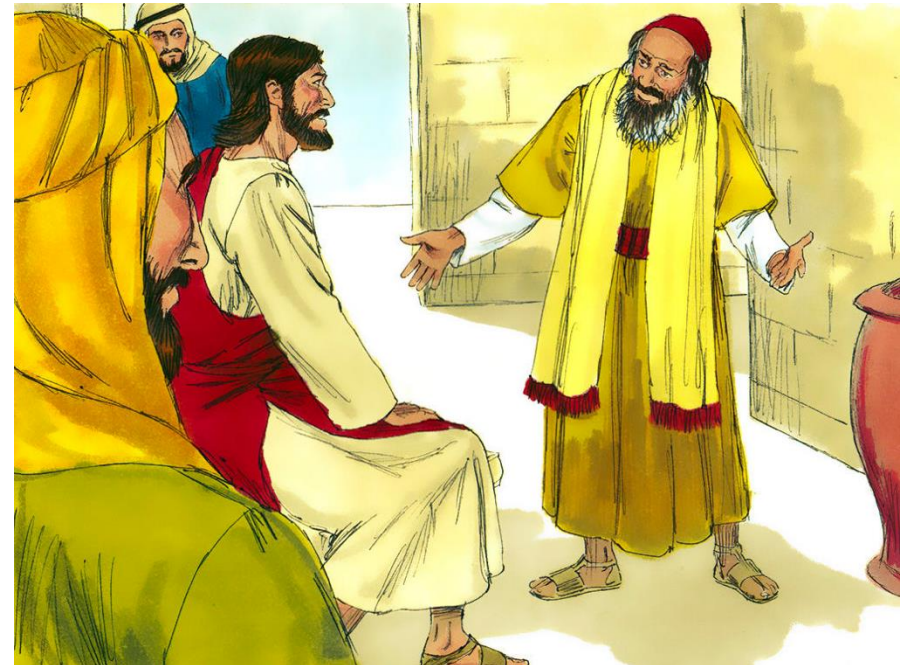


- What made the Lord rejoice in the Spirit?
- What is being hidden?
- His will is...
- “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.” (Jn. 4:34-36)



What is the way to God?

- “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (Lk. 10:25)
- Love God and Love your neighbor



“Our Life and our Death...”

- *“Our life and our death is with our neighbor. If we gain our brother, we have gained God, but if we scandalize our brother, we have sinned against Christ.”*

- St. Anthony



“Our Life and our Death...”

- We cannot love God without loving our neighbor
- “If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.” (1 Jn. 4:12)
- “If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.” (1 Jn. 4:20-21)



St. Macarius

- *“Macarius, you have not yet attained such perfection in virtue as two women who live in the city.”*
- *“We married two brothers. After living together in one house for fifteen years, we have not uttered a single malicious nor shameful word, and we never quarrel among ourselves. We asked our husbands to allow us to enter a women’s monastery, but they would not agree. We vowed not to utter a single worldly word until our death.”*



How to love our neighbors?

- “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.” (Matt. 10:7-8)
- Be a healing presence



How to love our neighbors?

- “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another;
- as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
(Jn. 13:34-35)



Levels of Love

1. Loving those who love me
 - “For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?” (Matt. 5:46-47)
2. Loving someone you are indifferent to
 - EX: The Good Samaritan
3. Loving those who hate you (your enemies)

