

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Gospel text (Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23): When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus (...) questioned him, “Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?” He responded, “Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts” (...).

The source of pure love

EDITORIAL TEAM evangelii.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, Jesus Christ indicates where the purity – the authenticity – of love resides: not in the law but rather in the honorable heart. Learning to “indulge” one self is part of the learning path of love. Love is not something you “have”, you “set” or you “control” with formalities or rules.

In a beautiful story, a poet by the name of Rilke, tells that in Paris he would always pass by a woman and throw a coin into her hat. The beggar remained impassive as if she had no soul. One day, Rilke gave her a rose. This time the beggar’s face flourished. It was the first time he saw she had feelings. The woman smiled, left and stopped begging for eight days because she received something more valuable than money.

-When you just want to “have” love, then one becomes selfish and rotten. What is important is not seeking inner self above all, but experiencing the path of giving oneself up just as Jesus Christ did gently and radically from the Cross.