

## **Seeds of Hope, Stories for Lent #18 – *Pray for the Heart of Jesus***

In the story seeds that are the Gospels, we find Jesus' beautiful teaching on the Greatest Commandment. It is here that Jesus tells us that the first and greatest of all commandments is to love God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. But He doesn't stop there.

He adds a second commandment and that is to love others as our selves—suggesting that the two go together.

The question is: “How can we do this?” How can you love God with all your heart and love others as yourself?

We all know this isn't easy. To help answer this, I looked to someone whom I believe was one of the greatest examples of love that I have known in my life, St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Wouldn't you agree? She was a woman who truly was a living saint because she loved God with all her heart and loved others every bit as much as she loved herself.

How did she do this? I was privileged to meet her on several occasions and to speak with her. I heard her explain this very thing. She told us that everyday and all throughout the day she prays to God, “Give me Your heart of love.”

She truly believed that when she shared that love with others, she was sharing love with Jesus, Himself.

As part of my Jesuit training, I worked with the missionaries of Charity for one summer in Katmandu, Nepal and later in Calcutta, India at a home for the dying. There I witnessed first hand how powerful this love in action can be.

To have the heart of Jesus is to have a heart of service. To love Jesus we must love others. When we love others, we fall more deeply in love with Jesus. It's as simple—and as difficult—as that!

This Lent, let's pray to Jesus to receive His heart of love and your life will never be the same. It will be filled with His life, His love, and His joy!

Amen? Amen.

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### ***For Further Reflection...***

***1. Who are the people you know you could do a better job of trying to love?***

***2. What are some ways you will try to enable yourself to love the people you mentioned above?***

*“Jesus said, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength!’”* Matthew 22:37