

## 24. I love only you, whether you are sinful or not

Love does not have to ask about one's past.

The love we have for the Lord is unconditional. The Lord loves us whether or not we have committed sins. No matter what kind of faults you have committed, you are loved by Him because you are all the children of God.

Today, the Lord, the perfect love in Himself, has confessed His love for us, insignificant human beings.

"I love only you. Whether you have committed sins or not - I love only you, whether you are sinful or not."

There is a very sad story to tell you.

A mischievous five year old and his little brother were playing about in a room where some heavy goods were piled in the corner. An unfortunate accident happened in which the goods collapsed over the younger boy due to the blunder of the older one, sadly killing him. Although the older one was too young to be sure about what death might mean to him and his dead brother, he was shaking with inexplicable fear that he did something he should not have done. As soon as their parents came back home, they found their son dead and shockingly realized what misfortune had ensued in their absence.

Grieving over the death of their little son, the distraught parents dragged the older son who was trembling with fear in their arms and hugged him tightly rather than weeping over their child's sudden death. It was a much more urgent thing to be done than crying over their dead son. And it was the hug expressing the greatest love of the parents for their child that exceeds the limit of human frailty.

"- It's OK - It's not your fault - It just happened - You didn't do it intentionally - Mommy loves you - Your dead brother won't blame you - He said that he loves you - so - it's all right - Mommy and daddy are OK - OK - Sweetie?"

The little boy could not forget the warm and open arms of his mother, and her silent and deep love that healed all things. Although the boy was able to vaguely feel how sad and broken his mother's heart was, he felt secure and was in peace thanks to the warm love of his mother. With the power of the love his parents showed to him, that little boy has grown up and is now living his life, dedicating all he has to his neighbors. If human love for one's children is as great as this, can you imagine God's love for us?

- My beloved sons and daughters - I love



Brothers and Sisters of the Congregation taking part in the 8 week seminar of the Holy Spirit with family members of Kkottongnae.

only you, whether or not you have committed sins -

The heavenly Father, like the little boy's parents but with much more concern, would say and do exactly the same things to people who killed Jesus on the Cross.

There are some people with personality disorders living in Kkottongnae. According to Fr. Oh's own definition of a person with personality disorder, **he or she is the kind of person who tolerates his or her own faults, but is very intolerable and hostile to others'**.

There was a man whose name was Joseph. He worked as a miner and fell down from a high spot during his holidays and unfortunately severely fractured his spine. Since then the lower part of his body has been completely paralyzed. In order to get compensation, he succeeded in tricking the company into believing that he was wounded while on duty at the work site. After spending all the money he received as compensation, he, with a paralyzed body and severe bed sore, came to Kkottongnae. Even though he lived with us for 7 years, he was never satisfied with anything around him and, as a result, did not live his life in peace, often speaking abusively at many young volunteers, kind nurses and even at the sisters. Whether it rained or snowed, we always did our best to take him to a hospital in Cheongju three times a week for a renal dialysis despite getting into a road accident once. However, his bloody-minded and negative attitudes and thoughts did not change, only upsetting many other people around him. As a matter of fact, quite a number of volunteers left the community because of him.

As this finally reached the limits of our patience, we spoke amongst ourselves; "What should we do with him? We have to kick him out of the community if we want to protect many other good volunteers - We cannot take this any more -" complaining that we cannot treat him with more patience and love. At this time, the Lord responded to us about true love through the mouth of the founder Father of Kkottongnae.

**"I love only you, whether or not you have committed sins -**

**And today I would like to ask you - Just as I love you regardless of whether you have committed sins or not - won't you also love your neighbor unconditionally?"**

The above words from the founder of the community eventually touched our hearts so deeply that it got us to continue loving Joseph. After that, many other hard times passed, but just one month before his death something miraculous happened to him.

We came to hear his confessional remarks, which we will never forget.

"Brother - I might have been dead much earlier if it weren't for Kkottongnae. Please forgive me for all the trouble I caused all of you. Since I am an unworthy man - everything looked so futile and unworthy to my eyes. But now I do know what love is. True love is unconditional love that doesn't ask about one's past nor personality. It is love given without condition to anyone, whether one is good or bad. So, for the first and last time in my life, I would like to put the love I learned from this community into practice by donating my body and eyes that are the only things I

have at this time, after my death - I really appreciate all the things you have done for me - thank you so much -"

After that he lived for only one more month and left us.

As we observe many families nowadays being destroyed due to a lack of love, we are in greater need for the love of God who teaches us the true meaning of love.

"I love only you whether or not you have committed sins . . ."

"Love only your husband whether he has committed sins or not"

"Love only your wife whether she has committed sins or not"

"Love only your parents whether they have committed sins or not"

"Love only your children whether they have committed sins or not"



Special retreat for holy family held in Kkottongnae