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Saint Thomas Aquinas was praying one day before the crucifix and heard the voice of our Lord. “You have written well of me, Thomas. What reward will you receive from me for your labor?” This voice was audible and it was heard by another brother in the community. Thomas responded *Domine, non nisi Te*—that is, “Lord, nothing but you.” Good answer, good answer. Thomas Aquinas knew that God is the source of all fulfillment. We, on the other hand, always want to add something to it.

We think, “If only I had more money” or “if only that coworker I don’t like left” or “if only I was better looking” or more manly or whatever, I’d be happy. But that annoying coworker is not preventing me from having God. In fact, he is helping me by trying my patience, by forcing me to grow in virtue. CS Lewis put it this way, “All that we call human history--money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery--[is] the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.”

I have used this example before but it is good so I repeat it. When we are a child, we come running down on Christmas Day to open our gifts and three days later our bored. They cannot fill us. We do the same thing as adults, but instead of video games and action figures, we have iPhones, cars, and a new set of golf clubs.

Today’s Gospel tells us what Jesus wants to give us. “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.” God wants to be so close to us that he lives with and in us. We look for happiness in all the wrong places, and Jesus shows us the way. We need to let him live in us and he can do that if we love him and keep his word. He will be with us in this life and in the next, as we heard about in the second reading.

So we need to keep Christ’s word as a sign of our love for him. However, in the early Church, it wasn’t always clear what keeping that word meant. We hear about it in the first reading. Some were telling converts to Christianity that they had to accept the Mosaic law, which is not an attractive option for adult men. The Church had to decide, was this one of the commandments that Jesus wanted us to keep? And they determined that the ceremonial laws and the laws about cleanliness were not to be kept by the Gentiles, but they would keep the commandments that explain to us how we love God with all our heart, mind, and soul and our neighbor as ourselves. These are summed up by the Ten Commandments, once we understand them the way Jesus teaches us to understand them: in the way that touches and transforms our heart.