

## Questions for Conversations

01.09.22

How has the gratitude habit been going? What have you done to continue it or develop it lately?

How has God been speaking to you lately?

What questions about the message do you have?

In what ways are you like the crowd (Hungry perhaps desperate for a fresh start)?

In what ways are you like John and the Religious? Both have a pretty good idea of what God is like, how He acts. John was willing to allow Jesus out of the box. The Religious Leaders weren't. Where are you John and where are you the Religious Leaders?

In what ways do you need to understand that God the Father looks at you like he does Jesus? He loves because he loves. His love is not dependent on what you have done, can do, or will do.

How can you practice and celebrate God's solidarity with you this week?

Where might God want you to let him out of your box?

## Share and Prayer

Father in Heaven! You have loved us first, help us never to forget that You are love so that this sure conviction might triumph in our hearts over the seduction of the world, over the inquietude of the soul, over the anxiety for the future, over the fright of the past, over the distress of the moment. But grant also that this conviction might discipline our soul so that our heart might remain faithful and sincere in the love which we bear to all those whom You have commanded us to love as we love ourselves.

You have loved us first, O God, alas! We speak of it in terms of history as if You have only loved us first but a single time, rather than that without ceasing You have loved us first many things and every day and our whole life through. When we wake up in the morning and turn our soul toward You – You are the first – You have loved us first; if I rise at dawn and at the same second turn my soul toward You in prayer, You are there ahead of me, You have loved me first. When I withdraw from the distractions of the day and turn my soul toward You, You are the first and thus forever. And yet we always speak ungratefully as if You have loved us first only once.

– Søren Kierkegaard