

By [Glenn CJ Byer, MA SLD](#)

The homilist today might be tempted to take the short form of the Gospel today in order to keep focused on the issue of marriage, but I think this would be a mistake. Putting together those two images of marriage and accepting the kingdom like a child are in fact the same image. In the Christian dispensation, when a man and woman take each other as husband and wife, it is to be a relationship that is like that of a child and a parent. There is to be total trust, total self-giving and complete confidence between a married couple, just like there is for a child in relationship with a parent. This is why marriage is not something we undertake as a whim - it requires of us a great deal. This is the same kind of union is what God offers to each of us, except a million times more intense and true.

An examination of the first reading and psalm make this clear. Woman and man are not just other ways of being that might compliment each other, they are united at a level so deep that it is written in our chromosomes.

The letter to the Hebrews gives an additional dimension to this: the brotherhood of all of us with Jesus. We know that human love can communicate something of God's love for us: especially the love of husband and wife, of parent and child. What Hebrews tells us is that the sibling relationship is also a demonstration of the love of God. We cannot cease to be someone's brother or sister, no matter what. The wonder of God is the Jesus has chosen to take on this relationship and to be our brother always.

Today's readings place the love of God in the midst of our family relationships - the challenge remains to place our family relationships in the midst of the love of God.

© 2003, OCP. All rights reserved.

Printed by Liturgy.comTM

© OCP 2003-2009, All Rights Reserved.