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This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you!

(John 15:12)

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Love one another!

Dear friends of go4peace,

Again and again, Jesus had to experience how difficult it was for his closest friends to live not only together but also for one another. Their own well-being was often more important to them. Two of the apostles had a deep desire to sit to the left and right of Jesus in the kingdom of heaven. They wanted to be the first. Amongst them, the question had arisen as to who was probably the greatest among them. They were completely stuck in the thinking of this world according to the motto: "People are bad, they think of themselves, only I think of myself!" Or to put it another way: "If everyone takes care of themselves, everyone is taken care of."

The life of heaven that Jesus wanted to bring to earth lives from a different source. This had become clear at the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. The sky had opened. The Holy Spirit had appeared in the form of a dove. A voice had said, "This is my beloved son!" Therefore, Jesus came from the deep love of the Father. Through this dynamic of love -the Holy Spirit-Father and Son were always connected. This life in togetherness and honest love was what Jesus wanted to bring to earth. He wanted his friends to discover that a person's love for his neighbor is a first step. If this love then becomes mutual, life gains a new quality. It then gives itself a deep joy. Thus Jesus gave his friends his new commandment, that of mutual love. He told them, "Love one another as I loved you!"

Maybe you've had this experience of mutual love before. It makes heaven appear and shine on earth between people. Tomáš recounts such an experience: "I had come to a new parish and knew no one. The rectory was in a very bad condition and I felt myself getting worse by the day. I didn't know how and where to start. My soul was in a dark place. A good friend sensed this when we spoke on the phone. He came from far away to visit me. For two days I was able to experience how concrete his love was. We made plans for the apartment, tidied up and bought furniture. I felt very much loved. In these two days, new strengths grew in me. The love among us became mutual. He had given his time and love for me. I found the strength to give them back. When we said goodbye, there was a joy among us that I had not experienced for a long time. I understood what Jesus meant in His new commandment: **"Love one another!"**

for the go4peaceTeam Meinolf Wacker