

# 7. Love is a judgment: even if I make a mistake, I know what corresponds to my heart

by Julián Carrón\*

So then, Fr. Giussani continues—let’s pay attention to what is born of a particular history. “The protagonist of history is the whole person, the whole ‘I,’” not a part of us, not an “I” that says “I do this out of duty, but what I actually would like to do is something else.” No, the protagonist of morality is the whole “I.” “And the person has for its law a word that we all think we know and whose meaning, after a long time, if we are minimally faithful to what is original in us, we begin to glimpse: the word is love. The person has love for its law. [Because] ‘God, Being, is love,’ St. John writes. Love is a judgment that is ‘moved’ because of a Presence connected to destiny. It is a judgment, such as when you say, ‘This is Mont Blanc,’ or ‘This is a friend of mine.’ Love is a judgment filled with emotion because of a Presence connected with my destiny, that I discover; I glimpse, I sense that I am connected with my destiny,” with my fulfillment. “When John and Andrew saw Him for the first time and heard Him say, ‘Come home with Me. Come and see,’ and then spent all those hours listening to Him talking, they didn’t understand, but they sensed that that person was connected with their destiny. They had heard all the public speakers, all their opinions and all the party slogans. But only that man was connected with their destiny,”<sup>1</sup> corresponded to their expectation. What a freeing thing! Love is a judgment that is born of this correspondence. Even if I err, I know well what corresponds to me: Christ. Even if at times I prefer something else, I know where my fulfillment is. I love You for this, O Christ. I can stray from You, but I cannot leave You without losing myself.

For this reason, “Christian morality is a revolution on earth, because it is not a list of laws, but love for being. You can do wrong a thousand times and you will always be forgiven, you will always be picked up and you can start your journey again, if [pay attention, he says ‘if’!] your heart takes up that *yes* again.” Christian morality is not mechanical or automatic; it does not mean that everything is equal, because it demands a condition: that your heart take up that *yes* again. “What is important in that ‘Yes, Lord, I love You’ is a striving of my whole person, determined by the awareness that Christ is God and by love for this Man who came for me. My whole awareness is determined by this, and I can go wrong a thousand times a day, and be afraid to lift up my head, but no one can take this certainty from me. I just pray the Lord, pray »

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© 2016 Fraternità di Comunione e Liberazione for the texts by J. Carrón “I have loved you with an everlasting love. I have had pity on your nothingness”.

» the Spirit to change me, to make me an imitator of Christ, so that my presence may become more like the presence of Christ Himself. [...] I can be scolded for a hundred thousand errors, they can take me to court, the judge can send me to prison even without a trial, with blatant injustice, without asking whether or not I am guilty, but they cannot take this attachment from me, which keeps thrilling me with the desire for good; in other words, attachment to Him. Because the good is not 'the good,' but attachment to Him, [He is the good] following that face, His Presence, carrying His Presence everywhere, telling it to anyone and everyone, so that this Presence may dominate the world; for the end of the world will be the moment in which this Presence becomes evident to everyone."<sup>2</sup>

Given the centrality of the point, and knowing that we, too, are stiff-necked, Fr. Giussani repeats, "This is the new morality. It is a love, not rules to follow. And evil is to offend the object of love or to forget it. You could humbly analyze all the pathways of a man's life, and could quite rightly say, 'this is bad, this is good,' make a list of all the errors a man can make and put them in order, and then you would have a textbook on morality. But morality is in me, morality is that I love Him who made me and is here present. If this weren't the case I could use morality exclusively for pressing my own advantage, and in any case it would lead to despair. You have to read the works of Pasolini or Pavese to understand this. But, there again, on the other hand, you only need to remember Judas."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Luigi Giussani, Stefano Alberto, and Javier Prades, *Generating Traces in the History of the World*, McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal, 2010, p. 65.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 65-66.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 66.