

# Forward Day by Day

*Wednesday in Holy Week, April 8, 1998*



*I give you a new command, that you love one another.*

— JOHN 13:34A

**R**ead it. Only eleven words. So simple. So complex. So uncomplicated. So multi-dimensional. So easy sounding. So hard to do. So shallow. So deep.

Once again, Jesus' message is extremely paradoxical. Not the message itself, but the reality of the message. Taken at face value, it sounds really plain. Really easy.

We think of our grandchildren, our grandparents, our wives, our husbands, our girlfriends, our boyfriends, our best friends, our sons, our daughters, our dads, our moms. It's simple to see; love is the answer. What would we do without those we love? With them in mind, Jesus' command sounds really easy, and we find ourselves saying, "I can follow this command. It's an easy one."

Then, we step off our front porch, and we're confronted with all the people we don't want to love, from the person who cut us off in traffic yesterday to that one person we swore we'd never forgive. Every single person who has ever done us wrong. People we don't understand. Homeless people. Street people. Evil people. Mean people. People who scare us. The worst. Saddam Hussein and Jeffrey Dahmer.

It turns our comfortable world upside-down, doesn't it? That's a pretty good sign Jesus has his hand in it.