

"Superwoman" is a song by Karen White currently climbing the charts. The song is about a marriage whose partners just don't communicate any more. She sings to her husband that she "needs more than occasional hugs as a token of love from you." She might be asking, "Why don't we get along better?" "Why am I no longer happy as I used to be?" Her problem is her husband says he loves her, but he doesn't show it.

And this is the sad truth: sometimes we love people, but we don't show we love them. Why? Fear of rejection. Fear of intimacy. It requires too much effort. We get comfortable doing less.

Today's Gospel is the beginning of Jesus' farewell address. He's at the Last Supper, talking for the last time. He formulates his basic message as simply as he can. He has one commandment to leave us. And he waits till Judas has left the room to tell them this. His commandment is, "Love another as I have loved you."

Then he tells them there's one way people will know they are his followers. Not by the clothes they wear. Not by the prayers they say. Not by which church they go to. But by the way they love one another. "When they see you loving," Jesus says, "they'll know you belong to me."

The only way this works is if our love is visible. Not just an inside love: "God, you know I love you;" but an outside love: "God, let me show you I love you."

Often in our relationships we keep an inside love, but not an outside love. We tell ourselves we love someone, but we never tell them. Sarcasm, deception, and silence fill our days more than words of love.

I'm keeping it short today because the message is so simple: It's not enough to have love; it's only enough to show it. Then they'll know we are Christians by our love.