

## **The Essentials**

**There wa a story in the news about a woman trappd in a car for over a week before being found.**

**How could she survive? Only one way: by having air and water: the bare essentials for sustaining life.**

**In today's Gospel we hear a wise man proclaim the essentials of religion to an approving Jesus. "God is one!"...this was an essential Jewish belief which set them apart from their pagan neighbors who worshipped a multitude of deities.**

**And then Love of God and neighbor.**

**All else amounts to the trappings of religion: various devotions, reigious costumes, elaborate prayers are just the trimmings!**

**And so we pray:**

**O God help us to get down to the essentials.**

**Love of God,**

**and love of neighbor.**

**All else is at the edges.**

**And so we pray:**

**Help us to grasp the heart of the matter.**

**And as we prepare to vote,**

**grant us the wisdom to select**

**those who are concerned by the plight of their neighbors,**

**rather than those who would separate us from neighbors**

**by leading us down a path of fear and prejudice.**

**Amen**

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