

JULY 18, 2020
Saturday of the 15th Week in OT
Matthew 12: 14-21

“HE DEPARTED.”

In our gospel for today, Jesus Christ is teaching us how to face challenges in life. The Pharisees were hostile to Jesus and conspired to destroy Him. He was a threat to their authority and wanted Him to be eliminated. But how Jesus responded? Did He confront them face to face? “Jesus was fully aware of their plotting and so He disappeared from sight for a while. We should be clear that Jesus did not go out of His way to confront and attack people. Still less was His behaviour deliberately designed to create trouble for Himself. There are people like that; they go out of their way to make trouble for others and for themselves. Jesus never behaved in such a way. He did not want to attack or be attacked by certain people. He did not deliberately engineer His own sufferings and death; quite the contrary. So now, as things get hot for Him, He withdraws for a while.”¹

There are things in life that we need to “withdraw” to understand what is happening. This is not a coward act but a time for reflection, quiet, and be in touch with God. “Confronting people” is not always the best option but rather to leave for a while to think wisely and focus on what is more important. In my office, I posted in my wall a saying that runs this way: “Silence is the most powerful scream”² which gives me a second thought if it is really worth to talk, confront, or even say something to shield myself. Sometimes I need to be silent or withdraw to be strengthened. Jesus Christ is teaching us this way: aware of the anger, hostility of the Pharisees, He departed.

¹ www.sacredspace.ie

² www.lessonlearnedinlife.com

My brothers and sisters, how do we face challenges in life? Are we always “confronting” them or we pause, think, be quiet to clear our mind if it worth to say or do something? Most of the time, the best option is to be quiet, reflect and be in touch with oneself and with God before making any move or decision. In times of trouble and difficulties, let us be with Jesus and He will teach us what to do. Let us be quiet in prayer and the answer will be found not in talking or squarely confronting the situation but in silence with Jesus.