

JUNE 10, 2020
Wednesday of the 10th Week in OT
Matthew 5: 17-19

“TO BE GREAT IN HIS KINGDOM”

We heard last Monday’s gospel about the Beatitudes, a kind of self-portrait of Jesus and a call for us to be a blessing for others as He blessed and blessing us always. He invited us to be persons of the beatitudes, persons of blessing. While yesterday’s gospel, He gave us the similes of the disciples as salt and light. An invitation for all of us to preserve life as in the salt, and be the guide, inspiration, and good example as in the light. Now, in today’s gospel, the continuation of Jesus’ instruction, He strictly tells His disciples about integrity in their lives: to practice what they preach. He told His disciples this warning and promise: “Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”¹ He is not abolishing the law but fulfilling it through and by His life, words, and deeds. His life itself is a guide and mantra of His disciples to follow. And as disciples of Jesus, we are called to follow His life, teachings, and commandments to be great in His Kingdom. My dear brothers and sisters, Jesus is reminding us for three consecutive days: be persons of the beatitudes – be a blessing for others, be the salt and light of the world, and teach and be witnesses of God’s goodness to the world. As today we experience crisis, pandemic, chaos and uncertainties, Jesus Christ needs us more than ever: to be the strength and hope of others through our kind words and deeds, and with them, we pray: “Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.” Let us stay and continue to be disciples of Jesus in and out of season. He chose us to bear fruit, fruit that will last and be instruments of love, understanding, and peace. My brothers and sisters, amidst what is happening, go and tell the world of His love through our example of care, compassion, and patience.

¹ Matthew 5: 19 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA