

As I travel this week I wanted to share this reflection with you.

-(Matthew 5:17-37)

The Beatitudes are given by our Lord at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. The Gospel for the 6th Sunday records Jesus (Continuing the Sermon) discussing the law and how we are to live out this interior disposition of the Beatitudes.

I preached recently on the Beatitude: “Blessed are the Poor in Spirit” as an interior disposition of (humility and openness to be filled by God). This interior emptying out (see Philippians 2:7) leads to an exterior devotion and love of God. This interior disposition helps us to participate more fully in the exchange of the Divine Love and Life of God (From the Father, Through the Son, In the Holy Spirit).

This 6th Sunday Jesus says (Mt 5:17): “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.”

Pope Emeritus Benedict writes in Jesus of Nazareth: This fulfillment, demands a surplus, not a deficit, of righteousness.” In other words, Jesus did not come to do away with a Law that was impossible to keep, but to provide the way and means for the Law to be radically fulfilled and lived (Carl Olson).

This Sunday Jesus is showing how this deeper interior disposition (Of Beatitude) can transform us to slowly conform to the law. He gives us the exterior pattern given by the law to bring freedom, and some rest, from the sin and vice that can consume us and harm our relationship with God and our neighbor.

Thank goodness the law (for those who believe, repent, and confess) leads not only to God’s Mercy and Forgiveness, but to a freedom ultimately from those frustrating vices that consume and enslave. And for the deep seated sin and vice, a Grace that allows us to live in moderation, which again brings us closer to the love and mercy Jesus desires to give and share with us.

I am personally thankful for the law, because when I fall, the law leads me to desire God’s Mercy, and to know how much more I desire and need Jesus at the center of my life.

Vivat Jesus - Father Vic Gournas