

February 23, 2020

## ***From Fr. Jim . . .***

Throughout the years I have collected stories that I thought would be good for teaching and preaching. My collection consists of two very large binders that are overflowing with stories and articles. I searched these binders for a particular story that reminds me of the Gospel for today. I couldn't find it but I want to share with you what I remember about it. The story spoke about three very simple but important words in our English language – AND THEN SOME.



The author thought if we could remember to act on these three simple words, our lives and the life of the entire world would be better. For example: I did everything I could to help you and then some; I gave you all of my love and then some; I forgave you and then some; I cleaned my room and then some; I did what was expected of me and then some.

These three simple words make a lot of sense with the Gospel for today. It is important to obey and remain faithful to the law and then some. Jesus came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it. When we act on these three simple words, will we find the selfless love of Jesus that is the fulfillment of the law? Do not kill and then some – like promote life, encourage it, support it and give it to another and say “no” to anger and don't harbor anger in your heart that may lead you to choose death over life.

These three simple words make a lot of sense for trying to follow the spirit of the law and not only the letter of the law. “If someone strikes you on your right cheek,” and then some, “turn the other one as well.” Forgive and do not retaliate. “Give someone your cloak,” and then some, “give them your tunic, too.” Be generous and share what you have with others. Promote the common good. “You shall love your neighbor,” and then some, “love your enemy, too.” Work for peace and justice for all. Love all others as God loves you. Living in right relationship with God and others, free from sin and death, is how Jesus came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it. Yes, to fulfill it and then some – to offer resurrection, harmony, unity with God and all creation forever.

**The Beatitudes of the World:** The Gospels for the last few weeks are from the Sermon on the Mount which begins with the Beatitudes. The following was written by Fr. Joe Robinson and amended by Fr. Rob Waller. The Beatitudes of Life without God; The Way to Un-happiness:

1. Happy are those who strive for wealth – money can buy anything.
2. Happy are those who use drink or drug to escape the things that trouble them – they will not suffer.
3. Happy are those who step on other people to get ahead – they will rise to the top.
4. Happy are those who get away with dishonesty and cheating – they will prosper.
5. Happy are those who get revenge – they will be satisfied.
6. Happy are those who give in to their every desire – they will find life more thrilling.
7. Happy are those who have the most deadly weapons - they will control the universe.
8. Happy are those who compromise on what they know is right – they will be accepted by others.
9. Happy are those who can get by without God and worship – they will have more time for fun.
10. Happy are those who do not waste time thinking about the needs of others – they will have more time for themselves and their own needs.
11. Happy are those who always gather earthly possessions – they will have everything they need and will want for nothing.
12. Happy are those who are convinced that sacrifice is an old fashioned word – they will not feel guilty about seeking their own interests rather than the common good.