

Monday of the Twenty-third Week in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (Lk 6,6-11): On another Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and began teaching. There was a man with a paralyzed right hand and the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees watched him: Would Jesus heal the man on the Sabbath? If He did, they could accuse him. But Jesus (...) looked around at them all. Then He said to the man, «Stretch out your hand». He stretched it out and his hand was restored, becoming as whole as the other. But they were furious and began to discuss with one another how they could deal with Jesus.

Without Jesus the Redeemer it is inevitable to "harden the heart"

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, we all —Jews and non-Jews— must make a firm resolution: we have to "die to ourselves" and recognize Jesus the Redeemer. Without God man does not explain himself and falls into absurdity and contradictions. It is then inevitable to "harden the heart", rejecting any self-knowledge and denying our own guilt, unless there is "Someone" who also carries this guilt, who "develops" it and who forgives it.

There occurs a reciprocity here: without the idea of the Redeemer —who does not conceal the guilt, but suffers it— we cannot bear the truth of our own guilt and we appeal to the first deception: our blind obstinacy in front of this guilt, from which all other deceptions are born, to end up with our total incapacity to face the truth. And conversely: it is not possible to know the Redeemer and believe in Him without the courage to be honest with ourselves.

—O Lord, I ask you the grace of the "confession" to recognize the truth: yours (I need You!) and mine (I am not "God", but a weak creature!).