Wednesday of the Tenth Week in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (*Mt* 5:17-19): Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the Kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven."

"I have come not to abolish but to fulfill"

Fr. Miquel MASATS i Roca
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Today, we listen to the Lord saying: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets… but to fulfill" (Mt 5:17). In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us that the Old Testament is part of the Divine Revelation: First, God made himself known to men through the prophets. The chosen People gathered on Saturdays in the synagogue to listen to God's Word. And just as a good Jew knew the Scriptures and put them into practice, we Christians should frequently meditate —if possible, every day— upon the Scriptures.

In Jesus we have the plenitude of Revelation. He is the Verb, God's Word, that became flesh, and made his dwelling among us (cf. Jn 1:14) to let us know He is God and how He loves us. God wants of man a response of love, expressed upon the fulfillment of his teachings: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (Jn 14:15).

We can find a good explanation of today's Gospel in St. John's first letter: "For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome" (1Jn 5:3). To keep God's commandments means that we truly love him through our deeds. Love is not only a feeling; love also wants deeds, deeds of love, to live the double precept of charity. In the words of Pope Leo XIV, «every Christian is called to proclaim the Gospel and bear witness in every environment in which he or she lives and works».

Jesus teaches us the malice of scandal: "Whoever breaks the least important of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be the least in the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 5:19). Because —as St. John

says— “Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1Jn 2,4).

At the same time, He shows us how important good example is: “But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven” (Mt 5:19). Good example is the first element of the Christian Apostolate.

Thoughts on Today's Gospel

- “The sweetest commandments become bitter when they are imposed by a tyrannical and cruel heart; and they become most amiable when ordained by love.” (Saint Francis de Sales)

- “The law is wisdom. Wisdom is the art of being human, the art of being able to live well and of being able to die well. And one can live and die well only when the truth has been received and shows us the way.” (Benedict XVI)

- “The perfect fulfillment of the Law could be the work of none but the divine legislator, born subject to the Law in the person of the Son (Cf. Gal 4:4). In Jesus, the Law no longer appears engraved on tables of stone but ‘upon the heart’ (Jr 31:33) (...)” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Nº 580)