



THIS SUNDAY February 12 & BEYOND

Any time we go out into the world we have to constantly make decisions on how to interact with the people around us. While the way we treat people should honor the equal dignity we all share, the level of relationship determines what that looks like. For example, the best way I can honor the dignity of other drivers is to obey all the traffic laws and be as considerate as possible. I can't comfort them on the loss of a loved one the way I can a co-worker. I'm not able to try and help a co-worker reconcile the dynamics in their families like I could with my sisters. The list of people that give me full access to the movements and motivations of their hearts is probably limited to my wife and our children, the people that I have the most intimate connection to.



I think that's a helpful context for understanding what Jesus is saying to the people in his Sermon on the Mount. It's fine for a king to tell his subjects how to behave, but he doesn't have access to our inner thoughts, feelings, or desires. Jesus is telling us that the relationship is changing – no longer will we be subjects in the kingdom, but children of the Father through union with the Son. If we don't get that, it just sounds like God will be more exacting in judging us, when in reality what he wants is to be more generous in loving us.

Keeping in mind the context of parents and children (though this is true of all relationships), there's a danger that comes from wanting something good for someone more than they want it for themselves. If you're not careful you can begin doing things for them that they should be doing for themselves, and instead of empowering them, you make them dependent and entitled. Jesus is telling us that while God wants to deepen our relationship to give us his own heart, we have to give

him full access to our whole heart in turn. Our outward behavior isn't enough anymore and so Jesus takes us deeper to show us what stands in the way of receiving all the love that God has for us.

Finally, don't let Jesus' deepening of the law discourage you, and don't be afraid to really explore what in your heart needs work. Kings might demand perfect obedience, but a father's role is to be present through all the messiness and struggle of growing and maturing. God doesn't wait to begin sharing his divine life with us, so don't wait to begin sharing your life with him; open your heart to him so that you begin to experience how open his heart is to you.

Father McQueen

Readings for this Sunday – The Sixth Sunday after The Epiphany

Ecclesiasticus 15:11-20 Psalm 119:9-16 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5: 21-25, 27-30, 33-37

Calendar

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
 9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)
 10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)
 9:30a Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

AA Meetings

6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)
8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)
8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)