Commentary on the C	Gospel for Sun, Fe	b 12th 2023	

"I have not come to put an end to it, but to give it meaning"

In this Gospel passage, Jesus wants to help those who listen to him to read the Mosaic law: what was said in the old covenant was true, but it was not everything. Jesus came to fulfil and to promulgate the law of God in a definitive way (cf. 18). He manifests the original purposes and fulfils the authentic aspects, and He does all this by His preaching and even more by offering Himself on the cross (cf. 18).

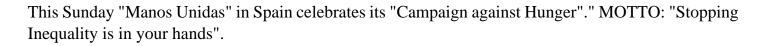
In this Sunday's gospel Jesus tells us: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets, but to fulfil them, and I tell you the truth, not a letter or an accent of the law will pass away, heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" (Mt 5,17-18).

Jesus' attitude towards the old law is more demanding, more radical, therefore it is not enough not to kill, not to commit adultery, not to swear false oaths. The ethics of Jesus is an ethics of interiority, which looks at the heart and does not only look at the external; it is an ethics of maximums and not of minimums, being permeated by the Spirit of God which He has given us: a spirit of love, which never calculates what it must do, because the one who truly loves, loves without limits or boundaries, because he seeks what is merely right, only the one who is not merely right because he loves is not satisfied with keeping the law, but aspires to perfection. The key to interpreting Christ's words is to be found in the ideal he proposed to us at one point in his public preaching: "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect". On the other hand, the Gospel message is extremely respectful. The Lord proposes but does not impose: "If you wish", he says to the rich young man. And in him to all of us. This is a splendid way of indicating how he respects our freedom. God has made us free, and this freedom, together with life, are the greatest gifts received from his hands. Freedom is an extraordinary gift that for Christians indicates God's great respect for man.

Man is free and can make use of whatever ethics he wants, but an ethics that does not respect man as a subject is totally questionable, because it would be selfishness and is not worth the same as one that affirms the need to do good.

Perhaps we do not understand the wisdom of Jesus today, but we, his followers, should try to understand it and, more importantly, to live it, or at least tend towards this ideal.

Prayer: Help us Lord to live the true law: the law of love.



Let's be generous.

HAPPY SUNDAY TO ALL

Victoria Sanchez, Madrid Teacher and Mary Elizabeth Sperry - Bible Diary 2023 - Claretian Communications Foundation, Inc.