

Commentary on the Gospel for Tue, Feb 6th 2024

Observing traditions

In today's gospel, Jesus calls the Pharisees hypocrites because they "disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition." Pope Francis explains this passage and says, "Today Jesus wants to caution us too, against the belief that outward observance of the commandments is enough to make us good Christians."

Even if we scrupulously observe all the rules and customs but fail to love our neighbours, we are arrogant and proud. We come across people in our communities and our parishes who say they are deeply Catholic, who attend church regularly but neglect their own families, ill-treat others and use uncharitable means to increase their profits.

Pharisaic hypocrisy has survived through the centuries and is evident even in our lives today. How often do we use the Word of God to scare people? Nowadays, many sermons scare the audience of God's impending punishments.

God, in his mercy, forgives us and brings us healing and grace for overcoming sin and evil. Let us ask the Lord to cleanse us with the purifying fire of his Holy Spirit. "Lord, let me dwell in your presence and fill me with the knowledge of your truth and goodness. Instruct my heart that I may walk in your way of love and holiness."

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