



The Gospel & Homily † el Evangelio y la Homilía

25 October 2020

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost - Vigésimo primer Domingo después de Pentecostés

Announcements

We are not meeting for Mass this Sunday. I hope that as you read this you feel the absence of your church family and pray for their safety; and for all those who suffer from sickness. May God protect the faithful.

Let us pray for the departure of this virus that changes how we worship and takes away our closeness; but never alters our love and faith in the Lord.

We pray for our loved ones and so many others in the world.

We are steadfast in the face of this challenge, through the courage and example of Jesus Christ.

- From Robin Valentine, a member of our church family... *Please say a prayer for my Rob (not my brother or nephew). His sister, Amanda Lynn, 34 years old, passed away. She leaves behind an 11 year old daughter.*
- Happy birthday to Deacon Suzanne this Saturday.
- In action approved by the leadership of our national church government, January 1st of 2021 is the effective date for two items:
 - The merging of the Synodal Catholic Diocese of the Southeast and The Old Catholic Church, Province of the U.S.
 - The change in status of the Mission Diocese of Florida to full canonical Diocese. It will initially be known as the Diocese of Florida and the name will likely change at a later date; so as to include our new sister-churches in Michigan, Indiana and Texas.
- The National Assembly (in virtual form) has been moved to January 16th 2021. Conferees and delegates to be announced.
- There is a special fund of our national church called the Bishops' Relief Fund. This fund is used to donate to any crises in the world where donated money will make a difference. The fires in California have burned most of this year. They don't seem to be getting much assistance and our church will direct the Bishops' Relief Fund donation to food banks there. St. Paul already has an amount set aside for this. Your individual contribution is welcome. By the way, you have until the first week of Advent, that's December, to set a few dollars aside. I will post the address to send your checks to on our website at <https://spcath.org> , or you can call or text me.
- For the video Mass we will omit the First Reading and the Prayer of the Faithful.
- Let us watch the news carefully and pray for the development of a vaccine so that all churches may resume the gathering that means so much.
- I will stay in touch with each of you as we plan our church schedule for the months ahead. Please also visit the website at <https://spcath.org>

Gospel Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet"?"

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.



Homily

Today is a short lesson. It is simple, short, but extremely powerful. Pay attention.

"When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees..."

Who are these people and how do we remember them...? Last week I gave you some buzzwords... Pharisees equal what? (P = Professors and Politics) and Sadducees equal what? (S = -\$-)

The Pharisees and their Scribes (the writers) were speaking out and asking Jesus questions when he would speak to the people. The Scribes did the actual reading and the writing and the Professors (the Pharisees) memorized the high points for their own purposes to lead the worship and the matters of state. Remember that Judaism was both church and government... both of those under the umbrella of the dictatorship of the Roman Empire.

While having contests with the Pharisees, Jesus attempted to educate them. I suppose a light argument in the company of the people served to make the occasion more sensational. Such an event would reach as many ears as possible. Jesus used parables that enhanced the lesson and when the lawyers launched some attack with words, Jesus would turn it back on them, making his lesson even more memorable to his listeners while bringing them to God in the true way – not the fractured truth of the current rabbis. The rabbis at that time were oppressive in their teaching. Every lesson they taught was that the leaders were better than the common people... who were just sinners and were lost souls. They had corrupted the Jewish church to serve their own interests.

Today, Jesus does it again. It was a question that could have been asked by a child. Here was a scholar asking a no-brainer question... "Which commandment is the greatest."

Jesus answered with authority and absolute correctness, as if talking to a child or to uneducated adult. Rather than sarcasm he answered with love for all people in his answer and tone. Even the ones who would hurt him later, he treated with kindness.



He made this leader of the church appear to have no knowledge of his religion. He did it with tact and diplomacy. He used this moment to correct and teach. His words would echo across the country. Those words are here today in all of our Bibles.

Let's hear the words of the Gospel again...

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."



Evangelio Mateo 22:34-46

Hoy es una pequeña lección. Es simple, corto, pero extremadamente poderoso. Presta atención.

Pero al oír los fariseos que Jesús había dejado callados a los saduceos, se agruparon; y uno de ellos, intérprete de la ley, para ponerle a prueba le preguntó: Maestro, ¿cuál es el gran mandamiento de la ley? Y Él le dijo: Amarás al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón, y con toda tu alma, y con toda tu mente. Este es el grande y el primer mandamiento. Y el segundo es semejante a este: Amarás a tu prójimo como a ti mismo. De estos dos mandamientos dependen toda la ley y los profetas.

Estando reunidos los fariseos, Jesús les hizo una pregunta, diciendo: ¿Cuál es vuestra opinión sobre el Cristo? ¿De quién es hijo? Ellos le dijeron*: De David. Él les dijo*: Entonces, ¿cómo es que David en el Espíritu le llama «Señor», diciendo:

«Dijo el Señor a mi Señor:

“siéntate a mi diestra,

hasta que ponga a tus enemigos debajo de tus pies”»?

Pues si David le llama «Señor», ¿cómo es Él su hijo? Y nadie pudo contestarle ni una palabra, ni ninguno desde ese día se atrevió a hacerle más preguntas.



Homilía

Hoy es una pequeña lección. Sencillo, corto, pero extremadamente poderoso. Presta atención.

"Cuando los fariseos oyeron que Jesús había hecho callar a los saduceos ..." ¿Quiénes son estas personas y cómo las recordamos ...? La semana pasada les di algunas palabras de moda ... ¿Fariseos equivalen a qué? (P = Profesores y Política) y Saduceos igualan a qué? (S = - \$ -)

Los fariseos y sus escribas (los escritores) hablaban y le preguntaban a Jesús cuándo hablaría con la gente.

Los Escribas hicieron la lectura y la escritura y los Profesores (los Fariseos) memorizaron los puntos

altos para sus propios propósitos de dirigir la adoración y los asuntos de estado. Recuerde que el judaísmo era tanto iglesia como gobierno ... ambos bajo el paraguas de la dictadura del Imperio Romano.

Mientras tenía contiendas con los fariseos, Jesús intentó educarlos. Supongo que una ligera discusión en compañía de la gente sirvió para hacer más sensacional la ocasión. Tal evento llegaría a tantos oídos como fuera posible. Jesús usó parábolas que realizaban la lección y cuando los abogados lanzaban algún ataque con palabras, Jesús les daba la espalda, haciendo que su lección fuera aún más memorable para sus oyentes mientras los llevaba a Dios de la manera verdadera, no la verdad fracturada de los rabinos actuales. Los rabinos en ese momento eran opresivos en su enseñanza. Cada lección que enseñaron fue que los líderes eran mejores que la gente común ... que eran simplemente pecadores y almas perdidas. Habían corrompido a la iglesia judía para que sirviera a sus propios intereses.

Hoy, Jesús lo vuelve a hacer. Era una pregunta que podría haberla hecho un niño. Aquí había un erudito que hacía una pregunta obvia ... "¿Cuál es el mandamiento más grande?"

Jesús respondió con autoridad y absoluta corrección, como si hablara con un niño o con un adulto sin educación. En lugar de sarcasmo, respondió con amor por todas las personas en su respuesta y tono. Incluso a los que lo lastimarían más tarde, los trató con amabilidad.

Hizo que este líder de la iglesia pareciera no tener conocimiento de su religión. Lo hizo con tacto y diplomacia. Usó este momento para corregir y enseñar. Sus palabras resonarían en todo el país. Esas palabras están aquí hoy en todas nuestras Biblias.

Escuchemos de nuevo las palabras del Evangelio ...

"Amarás al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón, y con toda tu alma y con toda tu mente." Este es el primer y mayor mandamiento. Y el segundo es semejante: "Amarás a tu prójimo como a ti mismo. .
"De estos dos mandamientos depende toda la ley y los profetas".

