

February 24, 2019

From Fr. Jim . . .



Throughout the years I have collected stories that I thought would be good for teaching and preaching. My collection consists of two very large binders that are overflowing with stories and articles. I searched these binders for a particular story that reminds me of the Gospel for today. I couldn't find it but I want to share with you what I remember about it. The story spoke about three very simple but important words in our English language – AND THEN SOME.

The author thought if we could remember to act on these three simple words, our lives and the life of the entire world would be better. For example: I did everything I could to help you and then some; I gave you all of my love and then some; I forgave you and then some; I cleaned my room and then some; I did what was expected of me and then some.

These three simple words make a lot of sense with the Gospel for last week. It is important to obey and remain faithful to the law and then some. Jesus came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it. When we act on these three simple words, will we find the selfless love of Jesus that is the fulfillment of the law? Do not kill and then some – like promote life, encourage it, support it and give it to another.

These three simple words make a lot of sense with the Gospel for today. "If someone strikes you on your right cheek," and then some, "turn the other one as well." "Give to everyone who asks of you," and then some, "do not demand it back if it is taken from you." "Give someone your cloak," and then some, "give them your tunic, too." "You shall love your neighbor," and then some, "love your enemy, too." God loved us all so much that he gave us his son to die for us, **AND THEN SOME**, God raised Jesus from the dead for us, too. Alleluia!

The Beatitudes of the World: Last week's Gospel was Saint Luke's version of the Beatitudes. Beatitudes. The following was written by Fr. Joe Robinson and amended by Fr. Rob Waller. The Beatitudes of Life without God; The Way to Un-happiness:

1. Happy are those who strive for wealth – money can buy anything.
2. Happy are those who use drink or drug to escape the things that trouble them – they will not suffer.
3. Happy are those who step on other people to get ahead – they will rise to the top.
4. Happy are those who get away with dishonesty and cheating – they will prosper.
5. Happy are those who get revenge – they will be satisfied.
6. Happy are those who give in to their every desire – they will find life more thrilling.
7. Happy are those who have the most deadly weapons - they will control the universe.
8. Happy are those who compromise on what they know is right – they will be accepted by others.
9. Happy are those who can get by without God and worship – they will have more time for fun.
10. Happy are those who do not waste time thinking about the needs of others – they will have more time for themselves and their own needs.
11. Happy are those who always gather earthly possessions – they will have everything they need and will want for nothing.
12. Happy are those who are convinced that sacrifice is an old fashioned word – they will not feel guilty about seeking their own interests rather than the common good.