

# Examples of Jesus' Teachings

A large part of helping students prepare for Confirmation is showing them how Jesus's life is an example of how one can accomplish a life of holiness. Sacred Scripture has these guidelines. I have listed below some scripture from the Gospel of Matthew as examples of Jesus' teachings. Typically, we use this at the end of the year and make it a "game" - they read the scripture and then discuss what it is teaching and how they can apply in their life.

## **Teaching about Revenge:**

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also." (Matthew 5:38-39)

## **Teaching about Law:**

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." (Matthew 17)

The Law of the Prophets refers in part to the 10 Commandments delivered by Moses as he led the people out of slavery in Egypt. This was the "Covenant" or agreement between God and his people. Jesus at the Sermon of the Mount expanded upon this "covenant" with the Beatitudes....you need to be active in the world. By this we are able to keep God close and live joyfully. Community Service is a way for us to practice this.

## **Love for Enemies:**

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:43-48)

## **Judging Others:**

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Matthew 7:1-2)

## **Forgiveness:**

"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." (Matthew 18:21-22)

**Teaching about Prayer:**

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (Matthew 6:5-6)

**God and possessions:**

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." (Matthew 6:24)