



## YEAR A – July 5, 2020

The prophet Zechariah speaks to us on behalf of God in the first reading today. He is one of the 12 Minor Prophets in the Old Testament. If you google the phrase “*minor prophets*” you can learn all their names and why they are now called Minor Prophets.

Zechariah prophesied that a time of peace would come to his people. They had just been slaves in Babylon. He probably did not realize that his words would be applied to a baby born in Bethlehem hundreds of years later. That baby’s name is Jesus and he became the Prince of Peace for all people, Jews and Gentles alike. The kind of peace he brought to us is the kind the world cannot give. (John 14:27) It’s not the peace that many of the Jews expected then.

Unlike worldly kingdoms, the kingdom of Jesus is outside us, it is within us. St. Paul in his letter to the Romans reminds us, “...it is not the deeds of the body that impress God, but the deeds of the spirit”. The “deeds of the body” represent our selfish sinfulness. The “deeds of the spirit” represent our selfless love for God and for others. See the quote from Teilhard Cardin at the bottom.

In the Gospel Jesus says, “Learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart”. Earthly kings and world leaders do not talk like that. They do not behave like that either. For some of them, the end justifies the means, even when the means are sinful. It is those sinful means that are the “deeds of the body”. Lording it over others (Matthew 20:25) would be a good example – but it’s not the only one.

It’s not our job to judge others and account for them before God. It is our job to give an account of ourselves to God when we die (Matthew 25:35-40). Jesus says, “Learn from me...”. He never pretended to be something or someone he was not. We must stop pretending. We only fool ourselves for awhile. We can’t do that forever. Consider this:

*When you get what you want in your  
struggle for SELF, and the world makes you  
champ for a day, Just go to the mirror and  
look at yourself, and see what that man has  
to say.*

*For it isn't your father or mother Or the  
church whose judgment you must pass.  
The one whose verdict counts most in your  
life, Is the one staring back from the glass.*

*Some people may think you a straight-  
shooting champ, and call you a wonderful  
guy .But the one in the glass says you're only*

*a bum, If you can't look him straight in the  
eye.*

*He's the fellow to please, never mind all the  
rest, for he's with you clear to the end.  
And you pass your most difficult, dangerous  
test, If the man in the glass is your friend.*

*You can fool the whole world down the  
pathway of life and get pats on your back as  
you pass. But your final reward will be  
heartaches and tears, If you cheat the Man  
in the Glass.*

“We are not human beings having a spiritual experience, we are spiritual beings having a human experience.” What do you think that means?