

**BREAKING
OPEN THE
WORD**

August 18, 2013
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lectionary: 120

Gospel Lk 12:49-53

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."



2013

Spiritual Reflection:

Fr. George Aschenbrenner S.J. in his book: Stretched for the Greater Glory: What to Expect from the Spiritual Exercises has an interesting quote: "The downward mobility of service in a culture competitively pushing and shoving in an upward mobility provokes misunderstanding, challenge, cynicism, or put-down of simple regard." The image invokes in my mind that of a match going downward and a matchbox going upward and when the two hit there is a fire. Jesus' downward motion of humility comes into a contact with the upward motion of our foolish pride the spark creates a fire. The fire can be used to purify us or to burn us depending upon how we react to it.

Spiritual Questions

1. Why is following Christ's teaching about humble service so hard?
2. Why are we so prideful? (Either thinking we are the best of the best or the worst of the worst)
3. How can the teachings of Christ make us a better person?
4. How do the teaching of Christ burn someone who does not follow them?
5. How do you handle conflict in your family?

