

# BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



February 16, 2014

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 76

Gospel [mt 5:17-37](#)

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven. I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, *You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.* But I say to you, whoever is angry with brother will be liable to judgment; and whoever says to brother, 'Raca,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin; and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny. "You have heard that it was said, *You shall not commit adultery.* But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna. "It was also said, *Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce.* But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife - unless the marriage is unlawful - causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. "Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, *Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.* But I say to you, do not swear at all; not by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Do not swear by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black. Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the evil one."

## Spiritual Reflection:

A young man was pouring over the selection of Valentine's Day cards at a local gift store. A clerk asked if she could help. "I'm looking for your most beautiful Valentine card," he explained. "Something that perfectly expresses my deepest feelings." The clerk went to a section of cards and pulled out a card that was beautifully embossed, trimmed with lace, and written in an elegant script. "This is a lovely card," she said and read the inside, "'To my one true love, the light of my life, the song that fills my heart with joy, the very image of beauty and grace. I love you more than I can say.'" The young man was thrilled. "That's perfect!" he said. "That's exactly the special kind of heartfelt message I'm looking for. I'll take five."

## Spiritual Questions:

1. Are we aware of how we use the word "love"?
2. What do our actions say that we treasure?
3. Is there anything hypocritical about the way we live?
4. How are we trying to do the minimum?
5. In which ways are we doing the max for God?