



*Reflection from Ben 2/23/2020*

The Gospel text we encounter today is one of the simplest from Jesus. Sometimes, the simplest ones are the hardest to do and live with.

Jesus continues to preach the "Sermon on the Mount" building on the commandments of old, acting as the new Moses and asking us to "offer NO resistance to one who is evil." The examples he gives noted that the Old Testament laws were declared to regulate society and prevent bloody tribal conflicts. That might have prevented violence to escalate. But as Gandhi observed, that created a lot of blindness. And may I add, it also rendered society "toothless!"

Jesus admonishes us today to go deeper than those we love or are in our group to those who are detached and considered outsiders. To "be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect," we have to "love our enemies and pray for those who persecute" us.

Without the grace offered in Jesus Christ, this task is impossible! Only with Him can we live this challenge out.

*Blessings, Ben*

Mt 5: 38-48