



22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Deut 4:1-2, 6-8
Ps 15:2-5
Jas 1:17-18,21-22,27
Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

Monday August 31

1 Thes 4:13-18
Ps 96:1, 3-5, 11-13
Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday Sept. 1

1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11
Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14
Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday Sept. 2

Col 1:1-8
Ps 52:10-11
Luke 4:38-44

Thursday Sept. 3 St. Gregory the Great

Col 1:9-14
Ps 98:2-6
Luke 5:1-11

Friday Sept. 4

Col 1:15-20
Ps 100:1b-5
Luke 5:33-39

Saturday Sept. 5

Col 1:21-23
Ps 54:3-4,6,8
Luke 6:1-5

In the Gospel reading this Sunday, Jesus chastises the Pharisees for honoring God only with their lips while their hearts were far from him; love was missing from their analysis of whether or not Jesus and his disciples had sinned by disobeying a Jewish rule about cleanliness.

The rule was more important to them than the person. They had the self-righteous attitude of: "I know better than you, and I am better than you, proven by the fact that I obey the laws that you're breaking."

Obedience, when motivated by a love for rules and regulations, is hypocrisy. It's full of self-righteous arrogance that uses the law to make us feel superior to others. We witness this today, for example, when someone clubs a priest with the GIRM (General Instruction of the Roman

Missal, which prescribes the norms for Mass) because he makes adaptations based on guidelines that an untrained lay person might interpret as inflexible rules.

When this happens, "in vain do they worship me," Jesus says. The meaning of the Mass has been lost.

There is a hierarchy of rules and laws. Some rules change with the needs of the times. Of greatest importance are the Commandments of God, the Moral Laws, which never change. All of them are supposed to help us on our journey to heaven.



It is right to speak up when we witness disobedience, and we *should* do it, but only because we care

about the sinner's spiritual growth and only when we can handle it without ignoring or overlooking the reasons behind the disobedience. We are most successful in guiding others into greater holiness when we take the time to first understand the roots of their disobedience and then address those concerns with love.

This is how we become, as the second reading says, "doers of the word and not hearers only", because, as James adds, "pure" religion is caring for others. The Pharisees in the Gospel story didn't care about the hunger of the disciples.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. How do you know when you're being hypocritical in your faith?
2. How do you handle the discovery that you've done something uncaring?
3. Give an example of a Moral Law and an example of a regulation that was instituted by the Church to address a specific need for a specific time. How do they differ in importance?
4. Name one of the 10 Commandments or a teaching of the Church and explain how it became an opportunity for you to become more like Christ.