



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

Readings & Background

This Sunday's Readings: Theme of the Sunday:

It was said to our Ancestors. But I say this to you.

The **first reading** tells us that we are free and we are accountable for our actions.

The **second reading** speaks of the wisdom of God, so different from human wisdom;

The gospel gives some examples of this. The disciples do not ask Jesus to explain what he says.

They believe in the **love of the Father** and they know that **the way he shows them is the way to life.**

First Reading Sirach 15:15–20

The eyes of God see all he has made.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 119:1–2,4–5, 17–18,33–34

Happy are those who walk in the way of the Lord.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 2:6–10

God has revealed this wisdom to us through the Spirit.

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:17–37

Doctrinal Content:	Purpose of this session
Gospel	Matthew 5:17-37 I have not come to abolish the law and the prophets but to fulfill them.
Scripture Profession of Faith	Jesus came to fulfil the law Jesus is our teacher (#561)
Church Sacraments/liturgy	Eucharist: Our Father
Christian living/morality	Signs of Jesus' followers: keeping the commandments. Following Jesus by keeping the commandments.
Prayer/worship	Prayers of the faithful (with emphasis on praying for peace)

Background on the Gospel Reading

Matthew continues the **Sermon on the Mount** with a three-part **instruction by Jesus on the Way of Life** in the kingdom of heaven.

Today's reading is part one and **deals with the Law.**

Part two deals with **worship and religious practice and contains the Lord's Prayer.**

Part three deals **with trusting God** and deeds of loving service to our neighbour.

When Matthew speaks of "**the Law and the prophets**" he means the **whole Scripture.** When the Messiah brings the fullness of the kingdom none of scripture will be done away with. Instead it will be fulfilled.

Matthew's **Jesus does not overturn the Law of Moses,** nor does he set his followers free from the Law.

He requires his followers to **go beyond the Law by doing more than the Law requires.**

The Law **condemned murder.** Jesus **condemns anger.**

The Law **condemned adultery.** Jesus condemns **even lustful looks.**

As Jewish Christians who had always been faithful to the Law Matthew's community need a way to understand the difference Jesus and the kingdom he brings have made.

They affirmed that God had always been at work in history through "**the Law and the prophets.**"

But **God's work goes beyond that** to be embodied by the Messiah who reveals the definitive will of God. The written scriptures and their interpretation in tradition are **surpassed by Jesus whose life and teaching are the definitive revelation of the will of God.**

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A

Family Connection

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:17–37

I have not come to abolish the law and the prophets but to fulfill them.

Family Connection

Families have rules. Without rules, family life would be chaos.

As a family, brainstorm a list of rules that you are all called to follow in your home in order for you all to get along together.

Think about rules for play (fun) time, rules for eating, rules for how to speak to one another, rules for going out with friends, and so on.

Emphasize that families follow rules as a way of ***showing love and respect for one another.***

Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about following the Law.

God's Law of love can be thought of as rules that we are to follow in order to show our love and respect for one another.

Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 5:17–37.

Talk specifically with one another about how anger is to be dealt with in your family.

Conclude by praying for the ***grace to overcome anger and to show respect for one another*** as a family by following God's Law of love.



