

## Monday Week 15 of Ordinary Time

### Gospel

**Matthew 10:34-11:1**

#### **It is not peace I have come to bring, but a sword**

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: ‘Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth: it is not peace I have come to bring, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man’s enemies will be those of his own household.

‘Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

‘Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

‘Anyone who welcomes a prophet will have a prophet’s reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man will have a holy man’s reward.

‘If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.’

When Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples he moved on from there to teach and preach in their towns.



### Reflection

God became man in Jesus Christ to restore us to communion with Him and this is the Good News of the Gospel! If the Gospel is Good News, then today’s reading is Good News. How? Let’s look at what Jesus is teaching us about salvation and Eternal Life.

The Catechism reminds us that whilst family ties are important, parents must remember that their child is not just growing in human maturity, but that God is calling them to Himself, and so that they are also growing in spiritual maturity. EVERYONE has a vocation (“vocation” means calling). God

calls each and every one of us to a life of beatitude (which means blessing) in a deep relationship with Him. For some, this is lived out as a religious; priest, monk, nun etc, but for the majority, this is lived out in the context of “the world.” This is the meaning of taking our cross and following Him (c.f. 10:38). Sadly, all too often faith has brought violence and hatred, but let’s think about what Jesus is saying. Our salvation is more important than family ties. The history of the Church is ridden with family conflict and there will be members of our family who despise our choices in this life. We must not allow their lack of faith to dissuade us of our faith. By the grace of Christ, we can stay firm and pray for those members of our family who do not, (or who no longer) have faith in Christ. Before meeting with such family members, ask the Holy Spirit to give us the grace to love them as Christ loves them, and to have the words to say, if necessary, to defend our faith (c.f. I Peter. 3:15). He will not let us down! The life of a Christian is not necessarily easy, but the rewards are amazing – more than we can possibly imagine, as we heard in yesterday’s Gospel (Mt. 13:23).

Carol Ann Harnett 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020