

Collect: O LORD, make us have perpetual love reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving kindness, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lessons: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalm 69:8-20

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

Sermon: If we ever needed the Lord before, we sure do need him now. We are living in a time of discontent. People are fearful for their lives here in the United States and throughout the world because of the COVID-19 Virus. People are protesting in our streets because of police misconduct and racial issues. People are not working, and many depend on food given to them by churches, food banks and people of good will.

These are challenging times, and many are asking, "When will we go back to being normal like things used to be?" **The answer is never.** We will get to a time when the protest are over, people are back to work, churches are having services, children are going back to school and we are feeding our families.

Things are changing. There is a new attitude among people. People of all colors, faiths, ethnic groups, and even in different countries are saying through their protest: **Things have got to change!**

In Matthew Jesus is speaking to his disciples he tells them, "Do not think I have come to bring peace to the world, I have come to bring a sword. There

will be disagreements in households and in one's own household. Sons will disagree with fathers; mothers will disagree with daughters and so on."

I don't think Jesus is saying they will be at war with each other. Their disagreement will be over whether to follow him and this new faith/religion he is teaching. Many will want to hold onto the old faith and its practices and reject this new faith that Jesus is presenting.

Jesus is pointing out that it is difficult to turn aside from the old ways and accept new ways. Jesus said to the disciples, "Whoever loves father and mother more than me is not worthy of me and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worth of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me."

I think Jesus is saying a person must have a strong commitment to accept the new changes he is bringing. And those who will accept the new changes, take up the cross and follow him will find a new and different life following his teachings.

Jesus had commissioned his disciples to go out to preach the Gospel and carry the Good News to the people. He also gave them the power to cure the sick and heal their diseases, cast out demons, heal the lepers and to raise the dead.

Today Jesus commissions our clergy through ordination by the bishop. They are to preach the Gospel, bring spiritual healing to the people, pray for healing of physical illnesses and diseases, and to bury the dead.

In today's Gospel Jesus is talking about the changes he is bringing into the disciples' lives. He delegated parts of his ministry to the disciples and was able to share his ministry to many more people than he could have done by himself. The delegation continues today, and he delegates us as Christians to carry on his ministry. We are trying to help others help good lives and we are trying to be the best people we can be.

Didn't Jesus say that the second commandment, "That we should love our neighbors as we love ourselves" is just as important as the first. "That we should love God with all our hearts, minds and souls?"

As I look today, we have a grand example in the peaceful protest of people. I see them putting themselves in other people shoes and asking of themselves: **“What if that was me that happened to?”**

Jesus has changed our life. And we are calling for a change in our country, in how we love and how we treat each other. Amen.

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