

## From Fr. Mike's Desk

This week Jesus tells us the next element we need to become true disciples. He tells us that through the prayer He offers to the Father. Jesus gives praise for those who are the little ones, who the Father reveals the true mysteries of life. They were not shown to the wise and learned of this world, for the wise refused to listen to Jesus. They refused to go beyond what they believed and of course, they knew everything, after all, they were students of the law. The Apostles and those who were lonely and humble were looking for a true relationship with God. They saw God working in Jesus, and they understood that He was revealing the Father to them. They were also the ones who Jesus was giving the lighter yoke and burden. The Pharisees, scribes, and lawyers of the day placed upon the people a heavy yoke, too heavy for the simple person to bear. The yoke was their interpretation of the Law of Moses and all of the rites and customs they laid upon the people. The average person did not understand these precepts and could not understand why so many practices had to be followed. As a result, they believed that a relationship with God was impossible, and that all was lost, including a chance at salvation.

Jesus wished to relieve the people of these ideas and wanted them to see an easier way to eternal life, and that way is Himself. As Jesus tells us in John's Gospel, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me"! Again, the Pharisees were so wise and learned that they refused to listen to Jesus and follow Him. Jesus tells those who did listen that His yoke is easy and His portion is light; meaning it does not have the roadblocks that the Pharisees placed before them. One should not be too hard on the Pharisees for being caught up in the law, for their forebears gave it to them and handed it down from one generation to the next. However, as St. Paul tells us, the law was only in force until the coming of the Messiah. When the Messiah came, it was to be overruled in favor of what the Messiah taught and instituted. However, they did not look at Jesus with the eyes of faith; they saw Him as only being a carpenter from Nazareth. Their mistake, and unfortunately the mistake of so many others in today's world, is that they refuse to use their eyes of faith not only toward Jesus but also toward God altogether.

As we go back to Divine Mercy Sunday, we should help people to let down their guard (or their so called wisdom and learning) and trust in the Lord. We, of course, can do the same thing in those areas where we have fear or a lack of understanding. We should just trust in the Lord.

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Do not forget the Summer Festival next month, August 18-21 and join all of the fun, food, the raffles, the fireworks, the entertainment, and so much more. Please help St. Edward's with this great fundraiser. See you there.

God bless you always!  
Fr. Mike

