

## Trinity Sunday 2017

The Second of the Ten Commandments:

You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain. For the Lord God will not leave unpunished the person who takes His name in vain.

We ended last week by asking an important question. How do we use the name of God honorably? The Lord's Prayer begins by asking, "Father...hallowed be your name." Can we be mistaken in our use of the Name of God? Yes, we can be mistaken, sometimes using his name in a way we think is hallowed but underneath we are mistaken! The example with which we ended last week confirms our answer. We return now to that example.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in *your name*? Did we not drive out demons in *your name*? Did we not do mighty deeds in *your name*?' Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.'" (Mt. 7:21-23)

From the response of Jesus we can understand that his name was not being used properly. The context of the Sermon on the Mount reveals how his name is to be used with honor. Jesus told us not to worry about food or clothing but to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. (Mt. 6:25-34) He also taught us to forgive those people who sin against us so that our sins can be forgiven. "If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you." (Mt. 6:14) We seek the kingdom of God by seeking forgiveness of our sins. The people who received the rebuke of Jesus were seeking the kingdom of God by boasting about their deeds. This doing of so called 'mighty deeds' does not honor the name of God. The power of our Father is the forgiveness of sins. The will of the Father for his Son, Jesus, was that Jesus die for the forgiveness of sins. The door of the kingdom is open to those who repent. The name of God is used in vain not only in the movies but equally so by those of us who willingly use the name of God

to make a profit or as a pretext for boasting. We should always be able to find opportunity to use the name of God for encouraging others to seek forgiveness and to trust in the great mercy of God. Next week will look at our Catechism of the Catholic Church.