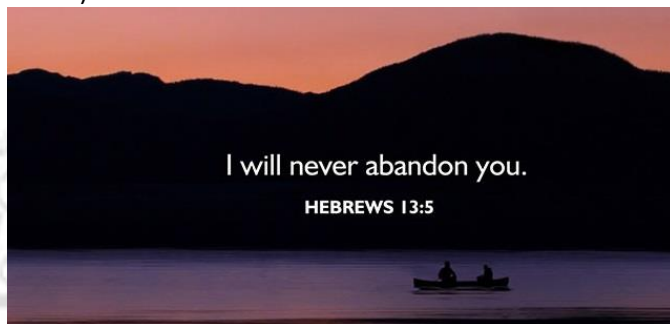


(Food for thought)

Gospel: John 14:15-21

“Pleading the case”



Some folks envision a harsh image of God, ruling over everything and everyone from an on-high vantage point. This God is a ruler and a tester, a judge or an inquisitor, expecting us to live up to a set of rules and regulations or requiring us to pass the litmus test.

In this perception, Jesus' role was crucial: to go before God and soften His anger over our failures. Jesus is our Advocate before a fearsome God. He is our defence attorney and we need him to get us on the straight and narrow path - and He has to die to appease an angry God.

The Father and the Son play out a sort of eternal scenario of “Law and Order,” persuading us to change our lives and reform our ways. And if

we don't, we are prosecuted to the full extent of the Law.

In entering human history, Jesus shattered all previous conceptions of who God is and what man is meant to be. And He shattered all of our preconceived images of God as well.

He vibrates to the hope and fear, the celebrations and desolations of each of us.

He is the Incarnation of the compassion of the Father.

Jesus reveals a God who is not indifferent – One who continues to live and breathe within us.

In almost every verse of today's Gospel passage Jesus assures us that we will not be left on our own – that He will never abandon us.

