

*SIXTH SUNDAY - A - FEBRUARY 12, 2017*

*"DO NOT THINK THAT I HAVE COME TO ABOLISH THE LAW OR THE PROPHETS. I HAVE COME NOT TO ABOLISH BUT TO FULFILL"*

*SPEAKING OF THE LAW, A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER WAS DISCUSSING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS WITH HER FIVE AND SIX YEAR OLDS.*

*AFTER EXPLAINING THE COMMANDMENT TO "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER," SHE ASK, "IS THERE A COMMANDMENT `THAT TEACHES US HOW TO TREAT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS?"*

*WITHOUT A BEAT, ONE LITTLE BOY ANSWERED,*

*"THOUGH SHALL NOT KILL."*

*TODAY THE FOCUS OF OUR GOSPEL OBVIOUSLY IS ON THE COMMANDMENTS - THE LAW....*

*HOW TIMELY - OUR COUNTRY THESE DAYS IS BEING REMINDED THAT WE ARE INDEED A COUNTRY BASED ON THE RULE OF LAW....*

*GIVEN THE RECENT RULINGS BY THE COURT ON THE ISSUE OF THE TRAVEL BAN...*

*WHAT A GIFT TO LIVE IN A COUNTRY AND A TIME WHEN OUR BASIS FOR SOCIETY IS THE RULE OF LAW.....OF COURSE, WE TAKE IT FOR GRANTED I'M PRESENTLY LISTENING TO THE LIFE OF THOMAS JEFFERSON AND IT IS CLEAR THAT EVEN IN THE FIRST YEARS OF OUR COUNTRY - I.E. 1790'S BECAUSE THE NEW COUNTRY WAS SO FRAGILE - SO MUCH INNER CONFLICT, ESP. BETWEEN THE FEDERLISTS AND THE REPUBLICANS, THE MONARCHIST AND THE DEMOCRATS -*

***BETWEEN THOSE WHO WANTED A STRONGER NATIONAL GOVERNMENT  
AND THOSE WHO WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE RIGHTS OF THE STATES  
AND THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS***

***THERE WAS A FEAR THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD GO BACK TO WHAT  
EVERYONE WAS USED TO...***

***GOVERNMENT BY HEREDITY, GOVERNMENT BY A SOLE RULER - A KING/A  
A QUEEN/ A MONARCHY.....***

***JUST LIKE FRANCE DID....14 YRS AFTER DECAPITATING KING LOUIS THEY  
EMBRACED THE EMPEROR, THE DICTATOR, NAPOLEON AND HIS FAMILY...***

***BUT NO, OUR GOVT BASED ON LAW AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE HAS  
SURVIVED.....***

***AND THAT FORM OF GOVERNING IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED NOW IN SO  
MANY PLACES BESIDES THE USA....***

***WHEN I WAS IN THE SEMINARY I TOOK A COURSE ON CANON LAW - IT  
PROBABLY WASN'T MY FAVORITE COURSE - BUT I LEARNED ONE VERY  
IMPORTANT THING....***

***THE LAW CAN BE YOUR FRIEND OR YOUR ENEMY.....***

***IT DEPENDS SO MUCH ON YOUR OWN APPROACH AND ATTITUDE -***

***LAW IS MEANT TO HELP US - BE A FRIEND***

***IF WE ARE TOO RIGID, GIVE THE LAW TOO MUCH POWER AND FORGET***

***THE INTENT OF THE LAW - IT CAN BE OUR ENEMY***

***IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO KEEP IN MIND THE CONTEXT FOR TODAY'S  
READINGS.....***

***THIS PASSAGE IS PART OF THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT THAT WE BEGAN***

*HEARING TWO SUNDAYS AGO WITH THE BEATITUDES AND LAST WEEK  
HOW WE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD AND CONTINUING NEXT  
SUNDAY...*

*WHEN WE WILL HEAR THE COMMAND TO LOVE YOUR ENEMIES...  
THESE FOUR SUNDAYS - THE GOSPELS CONSTITUTE THE SERMON ON  
THE MOUNT....*

*THE LAW IS MEANT TO HELP US BE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, TO BE  
LOVING PEOPLE - WHOSE LOVE DOES BRING LIGHT TO OUR WORLD..*

*WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE A LAWYER WITH US TODAY ALSO TO  
SHARE HER REFLECTIONS ON THE ROLE OF LAW, THE ROLE OF  
SCRIPTURE IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN....*

*HERE IS A WOMAN WHOSE PROFESSIONAL LIFE IS DEVOTED TO THE  
ROLE OF LAW IN BUILDING UP AND REPAIRING COMMUNITY...*

*ONE DAY I'M TALKING WITH HER AND SHE IS IN EATON.....*

*WITH THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY....*

*AND THE NEXT DAY I'M TALKING WITH HER AND SHE IS IN WILMINGTON*

*SO, SHE KNOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF LAW AND THE RIGHTS AND*

*DIGNITY OF PEOPLE AND HOW CHALLENGING IT CAN BE TO CARRY THAT  
OUT IN DAY TO DAY LIFE....*

*SO, LET ME WELCOME CATHY DEMPSEY TO SHARE HER REFLECTIONS ON  
LAW AND SCRIPTURE AND OUR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT...*