**I have not come to call the righteous**

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20 (Lk 5, 27-32)**

Jesus is a true prophet of his Father, of our Creator and God. What is the mission of the true prophets? That of calling those who have abandoned the Lord, betrayed and denied him, to conversion, which is the abandonment of evil and return in fidelity to the stipulated Covenant. Thus, the prophet Jeremiah: “*This word of the LORD came to me: Go, cry out this message for Jerusalem to hear! I remember the devotion of your youth, how you loved me as a bride, Following me in the desert, in a land unsown. Sacred to the LORD was Israel, the first fruits of his harvest; Should anyone presume to partake of them, evil would befall him, says the LORD. Listen to the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob! All you clans of the house of Israel, thus says the LORD: What fault did your fathers find in me that they withdrew from me, Went after empty idols, and became empty themselves? They did not ask, "Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, Who led us through the desert, through a land of wastes and gullies, Through a land of drought and darkness, through a land which no one crosses, where no man dwells?"When I brought you into the garden land to eat its goodly fruits, You entered and defiled my land, you made my heritage loathsome. The priests asked not, "Where is the LORD?"*

*Those who dealt with the law knew me not: the shepherds rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after useless idols. Be amazed at this, O heavens, and shudder with sheer horror, says the LORD. Two evils have my people done: they have forsaken me, the source of living waters; They have dug themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that hold no water. Know then, and see, how evil and bitter is your forsaking the LORD, your God, and showing no fear of me, says the Lord, the GOD of hosts. Long ago you broke your yoke, you tore off your bonds. "I will not serve," you said. A frenzied she-camel, coursing near and far, breaking away toward the desert, Snuffing the wind in her ardor - who can restrain her lust? No beasts need tire themselves seeking her; in her month they will meet her. Stop wearing out your shoes and parching your throat! Does a virgin forget her jewelry, a bride her sash? Yet my people have forgotten me days without number You, on whose clothing there is the life-blood of the innocent, whom you found committing no burglary; Yet withal you say, "I am innocent; at least, his anger is turned away from me." Behold, I will judge you on that word of yours, "I have not sinned." (Cfr. Jer 2,1-37).*Teaching the right way to sinners is also the ministry of the scribe and the Pharisee. Instead, they not only did not call to conversion those who had strayed from the Law, they taught that no return to the Law is possible anymore. For Pharisees and scribes the sinner was condemned to die in his sin. He was excluded from God’s mercy. While they always remained holy, despite every transgression of the Lord’s Commandments. This is why they hate Jesus: because he contradicts their foolish thinking.

*After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And leaving everything behind, he got up and followed him. Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were at table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes complained to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do. I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners."*

When the thought of man barefoot, annihilates, uproots, buries, destroys the thought of God, it is the end of true religion. The true prophets of the living God are distinguished from the false ones, because they are anchored in the Word of the Lord which invites every man to conversion. Those who have never known the Word and accepted it as their Law. Those who knew it and then abandoned it, so that one can return to it to have eternal life. The religion in which the sinner is excluded from the mercy of the Lord is false.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us evangelizers of the true religion.