**WEDNESDAY MARCH 23 – THIRD WEEK OF LENT [C]**

**"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.”**

**These very simple words of Jesus are enough to condemn the entire thought of the Christians of our time. While Jesus declares that He has not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but He has come to fulfil, the Christians of our time work to abolish both the Law and the Prophets. And what is more, they also work without interruption to abolish the entire Gospel, starting from the Sermon of the Mountain. We can affirm that today many Christians have let themselves be caught by the mind-set of this world and, in the name of that, not only are they abolishing the Gospel, they are abolishing Christ Jesus from their thoughts and with Christ Jesus his Church, as well.**

**Today we can put on the mouth of Jesus the same words with which the Lord addresses to his people through the means of the prophet Isaiah:** “**The vision which Isaiah, son of Amoz, had concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth, for the LORD speaks: Sons have I raised and reared, but they have disowned me! An ox knows its owner, and an ass, its master's manger; But Israel does not know, my people has not understood. Ah! sinful nation, people laden with wickedness, evil race, corrupt children! They have forsaken the LORD, spurned the Holy One of Israel, apostatized. Where would you yet be struck, you that rebel again and again? The whole head is sick, the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot to the head there is no sound spot: Wound and welt and gaping gash, not drained, or bandaged, or eased with salve. Your country is waste, your cities burnt with fire; Your land before your eyes strangers devour (a waste, like Sodom overthrown) -  And daughter Zion is left like a hut in a vineyard, Like a shed in a melon patch, like a city blockaded. Unless the LORD of hosts had left us a scanty remnant, We had become as Sodom, we should be like Gomorrah.” (Is 1, 1-9)**

**We can also apply what the Lord says to many Christians of our time through the prophet Ezekiel:** “**Son of man, stand up! I wish to speak with you. As he spoke to me, spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me: Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their fathers have revolted against me to this very day. Hard of face and obstinate of heart are they to whom I am sending you. But you shall say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD! And whether they heed or resist - for they are a rebellious house - they shall know that a prophet has been among them. But as for you, son of man, fear neither them nor their words when they contradict you and reject you, and when you sit on scorpions. Neither fear their words nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. (But speak my words to them, whether they heed or resist, for they are rebellious.) As for you, son of man, obey me when I speak to you: be not rebellious like this house of rebellion, but open your mouth and eat what I shall give you. It was then I saw a hand stretched out to me, in which was a written scroll which he unrolled before me. It was covered with writing front and back, and written on it was: Lamentation and wailing and woe!” (Ez 2, 1-10) Today the adaptation to the thought of the world is great.**

**Let us read the text of Mt 5,17-19**

**"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.**

**One is far beyond what Ezekiel sees in the temple of the Lord:** “**Son of man, he ordered, dig through the wall. I dug through the wall and saw a door. Enter, he said to me, and see the abominable evils which they are doing here. I entered and saw that all around upon the wall were pictured the figures of all kinds of creeping things and loathsome beasts (all the idols of the house of Israel). Before these stood seventy of the elders of the house of Israel, among whom stood Jaazaniah, son of Shaphan, each of them with his censer in his hand, and the fragrance of the incense was rising upward. Then he said to me: Do you see, son of man, what each of these elders of the house of Israel is doing in his idol room? They think: "The LORD cannot see us; the LORD has forsaken the land." He continued: You shall see still greater abominations that they are practicing. Then he brought me to the entrance of the north gate of the temple, and I saw sitting there the women who were weeping for Tammuz. Then he said to me: Do you see this, son of man? You shall see other abominations, greater than these! Then he brought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and there at the door of the LORD'S temple, between the vestibule and the altar, were about twenty-five men with their backs to the LORD'S temple and their faces toward the east; they were bowing down to the sun. Do you see, son of man? he asked me. Is it such a trivial matter for the house of Judah to do the abominable things they have done here - for they have filled the land with violence, and again and again they have provoked me.” (cf. Ez 8, 1-18) Today the Christian is gradually turning into a worshipper of falsity, of lie, of the own sin. And he does all of that in the name of God. Mother filled with grace, come and give us the true faith in the Word of Christ the Lord.**