**THURSDAY JULY 07 – XIV WEEK O.T. [C]**

**Amen, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.**

**We must ask: what is the principle of theological order on which the righteous judgement of God on all the works of man is founded? A first help comes to us from the Apostle Paul. Whoever has received the Law will be judged according to the Law. Whoever walks with the sole conscience will be judged according to his conscience. It means that the one who has received the Gospel will be judged according to the Gospel:** “**Therefore, you are without excuse, every one of you who passes judgment. For by the standard by which you judge another you condemn yourself, since you, the judge, do the very same things. We know that the judgment of God on those who do such things is true. Do you suppose, then, you who judge those who engage in such things and yet do them yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you hold his priceless kindness, forbearance, and patience in low esteem, unaware that the kindness of God would lead you to repentance? By your stubbornness and impenitent heart, you are storing up wrath for yourself for the day of wrath and revelation of the just judgment of God, who will repay everyone according to his works: eternal life to those who seek glory, honor, and immortality through perseverance in good works, but wrath and fury to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness. Yes, affliction and distress will come upon every human being who does evil, Jew first and then Greek. But there will be glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good, Jew first and then Greek. There is no partiality with God.**

**All who sin outside the law will also perish without reference to it, and all who sin under the law will be judged in accordance with it. For it is not those who hear the law who are just in the sight of God; rather, those who observe the law will be justified. For when the Gentiles who do not have the law by nature observe the prescriptions of the law, they are a law for themselves even though they do not have the law. They show that the demands of the law are written in their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even defend them on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge people's hidden works through Christ Jesus. Now if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast of God and know his will and are able to discern what is important since you are instructed from the law, and if you are confident that you are a guide for the blind and a light for those in darkness, that you are a trainer of the foolish and teacher of the simple, because in the law you have the formulation of knowledge and truth -  then you who teach another, are you failing to teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? You who forbid adultery, do you commit adultery? You who detest idols, do you rob temples? You who boast of the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? For, as it is written, "Because of you the name of God is reviled among the Gentiles." Circumcision, to be sure, has value if you observe the law; but if you break the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. Again, if an uncircumcised man keeps the precepts of the law, will he not be considered circumcised? Indeed, those who are physically uncircumcised but carry out the law will pass judgment on you, with your written law and circumcision, who break the law. One is not a Jew outwardly. True circumcision is not outward, in the flesh. Rather, one is a Jew inwardly, and circumcision is of the heart, in the spirit, not the letter; his praise is not from human beings but from God.” (Rm 2, 1-29)**

**Let us read the text of Mt 10,7-15**

**As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give. Do not take gold or silver or copper for your belts; no sack for the journey, or a second tunic, or sandals, or walking stick. The laborer deserves his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, look for a worthy person in it, and stay there until you leave. As you enter a house, wish it peace. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; if not, let your peace return to you.  Whoever will not receive you or listen to your words - go outside that house or town and shake the dust from your feet. Amen, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.**

**Jesus adds a further principle for the sound, righteous judgement: the miracles, the signs, the mighty deeds. He has come, has performed every mighty deed, but the hearts have remained hard as stone. Sodom has never listened to none of the Word of God and neither has it assisted to one only mighty deed fulfilled by the Lord. It will be judged according to the Law of the conscience. The towns of Galilee, instead, will be judged according to and in measure of the gifts of grace, truth, compassion, mercy bestowed on them by Christ the Lord. The more one receives heavenly gifts and the more one is responsible before God of our non-conversion. The Lord did everything with every grace and we have remained deaf to his voice. May the Mother of God come to our rescue. May She help us live the entire Gospel, having we received every gift of grace, eternal life, truth, grace in the sacraments of salvation.**