

Fidelity, Witness, Courage Fourteenth Week of Ordinary Time Saturday, July 12, 2014
8:15 AM Is 6:1-8; **Mt 10:24-33** (BVM) (Jesus is now calling forth his disciples to follow him in a new life of trusting in the Father no matter what happens.)

This address is to the apostles, not to the people, not to the crowds, not to the Pharisees, and it's about what Jesus expects. What Jesus expects is fidelity, witness, courage. He has called men to follow him, and he is telling them now what is going to happen. He said, well, first of all, people are going to curse you because no servant is better than his master. No disciple is better than his teacher, and **I am the teacher and I am the master, and look what they do to me, so the same will come your way. Are you ready for that?**

Then he talks about fear. **Fear is a very powerful emotion.** Some people are paralyzed by fear. They know what they ought to do, but they just are afraid to do it. And the world knows that. And so **the world has found all kinds of ways to get people to comply by making noncompliance so painful that people will be afraid not to comply.** Of course one of the great instruments of compliance was **crucifixion.** The Roman Empire ruled by fear. **Jesus says, "Do not be afraid, of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul."** So here he is distinguishing. Now people sometimes criticize what they call "dualism." **Isn't the body and soul one? Well, it's supposed to be one. But actually the body can have a life of its own without any real purpose or meaning, and then in a sense it is soulless.**

So human life is really complex. It's not only two components, many components, but some of those components are very invisible. **Meaning and purpose are invisible.** But that is what makes us really human. So Jesus is warning his disciples about settling for too little. **Life in the body is not going to give anyone something worth living for.**

And from his disciples he is asking for **the courage to trust.** There are those who believe that the original sin was distrust. The original couple was placed in a beautiful garden with all of their needs taken care of, and yet they still just couldn't trust that God knew what he was doing and that God was worthy of his word. **Jesus is now calling forth his disciples to follow him in a new life of trusting in the Father no matter what happens.**