

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Following Jesus' Instructions Twenty-third Week in Ordinary Time Saturday,
September 13, 2014 1 Cor 10:14-22; 8:15 AM **Lk 6:43-49** St. John Chrysostom,
bishop, doctor (We have to get in touch with that person inside of us who doesn't really
want to follow through.)

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ but not do what I command?”

I'm not sure that all of you would actually like **Jesus** if you met him. **He was a kind of person who was, as they say today, “in-your-face.” He did not mince words.** He did not try to massage his audience. He amazed them; yes, he did. He amazed them with the power of his words, which, for example, expelled demons at a word, destroyed the strongholds of evil that had built themselves in people; and that was actually one of his primary goals. He also, by a word or a touch, **brought healing to people:** physical healing, mental healing, all kinds of healing.

But he also spoke about how people ought to live. He instructed them. Here it says, “command.” I think instruct is more correct, but. What he is commenting on here is about people who follow him and call him, ‘Lord,’ which does not mean God here. It's a title of great respect. So **they are following him and respecting him verbally, but not doing what he says. That's what he is objecting to.**

Now there were two different kinds of disciples. The word “disciple” is used for the Twelve he chose, but the word “disciple” is also used for people who just follow him on their own. When it says here, “Jesus said to his disciples,” he is talking about **the whole group, not only the Twelve.** But he is complaining because they are not very good disciples because a disciple is supposed to be a learner, and **a learner has to put into practice what he or she has been taught, and these were not.**

Now the same is true today. St. Paul makes it very clear that there would be no Christian faith if it were not for the resurrection of Christ. That is certainly true. However, before Christ was raised from the dead he was still teaching. And looking at the history of the Church, both Protestant and Catholic and you could add Orthodox, there's a great deal of honor and respect given to Christ, the risen Lord, and rightly so. However, **we often neglect to pay attention to what he actually said.** And he had a lot of practical teachings. "When your brother offends you, then do this." Do we? Many times people have come to me and said, "Father, you know, you should tell so and so blah, blah, blah." I say, "Wait a minute. You should tell so and so blah, blah, blah." "Oh, no, I can't do that." "Why? That's what Jesus said to do." "Well, we can't do what Jesus said to do." "Why?" "Well, I, I, I." **We have to get in touch with that person inside of us who doesn't really want to follow through.** Why? Lack of courage? Maybe. Lack of confidence? Maybe. Whatever reason, it's not a good one. **We need to come to the fore and follow through point by point what Jesus instructs us to do when we have all the different situations that he brings up.** And all four gospels are full of them. We should have to take one at a time, apply it to ourselves. Then we will be like that person who builds a house digging deeply to lay the foundation.