

Reading All Scripture as Connected Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time Friday,
July 21, 2017 8:15 AM Ex 11:10—12:14; **Mt 12:1-8** (St. Lawrence of Brindisi,
priest and doctor of the Church) (He and the Father have sent to us the Holy Spirit who is to
be our teacher.)

“If you knew what this meant, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned these innocent men.”

Jesus is in many ways presenting new ideas, but in other ways he is resting on the past, but **it’s a new interpretation of the past.** It’s his interpretation of the past **as he garners it through his personal knowledge of the Father.** So as he accounts the Father as the Lawgiver and he knows the Father and the will of the Father and the heart of the Father, he feels that he needs to interpret and explain the Law in the light of his own personal relation with the Father.

But not only that, **he also expects other people to interpret the Law in a way that is flexible.** So what the Pharisees were saying was literally true, but he said although it’s literally true it’s not really true; you should know the difference. And he was really and truly scolding them because they didn’t know **the difference between reading the Law literally and applying it correctly.** His view is you should know the difference. And why should you know the difference? Well, you should be able to garner differences by simply reading Scripture, but that of course means connecting the dots. It means not reading Scripture one text in isolation from another, but **reading all Scripture as connected.** That’s his principal.

Then of course in addition to that, we know that **he and the Father have sent to us the Holy Spirit who is to be our teacher.** So we don’t simply have the words of the Bible, we have the teacher, the Holy Spirit, who inspired the words and **who presents to us the Word in the singular who is actually the Christ.** So this is really about **entering into the inner life of God,** which is precisely the point Jesus is always trying to make. We are being invited into the inner life of God. And if we stay on the outside and we try to be religious or be spiritual or be moral all by ourselves through our own lights, we will utterly fail.