

GOSPEL PEARLS

We cannot save ourselves alone

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Jesus said to his disciples: "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." (Matthew 5: 17-19)

Divine Will is made explicit in the Law (of God). Jesus reiterates he did not come to abolish but to fulfil the Law. The Law is summarised by loving God with all our strength and above all other creatures and by loving our neighbour as ourselves. The problem is that due to original sin sometimes we are unable to love God and, therefore, do not even love ourselves. By not loving God and ourselves we do not love others, thus failing to fulfil the second part of God's Will, that is, loving our neighbours. Knowledge without inner observance of the Law will not save us. On the contrary, it makes us all the more guilty. We need the Sacraments and the faith in Jesus, above all humbly acknowledging ourselves as sinners and unable to save ourselves alone.