

June 10, 2021
Thursday of the 10th Week
2 Cor 3:15-4:1, 3-6
Mt 5:20-26

In today's gospel Jesus makes it clear that He expects more of us than just keeping the Ten Commandments. He expects us to be in right relationship with Him by being in right relationship with our neighbor and with our community.

This expectation of right relationship requires us to expand our focus beyond how we behave as individuals. It requires us to evaluate how we behave communally, even globally. Science, God's Book of Knowledge about His creation, tells us that for every action there is a reaction. Everything we do has an impact on others. In many cases those others are people we will never meet. The relationship of human activity and global climate change is one glaring example. Another example is the decision to choose life by getting yourself vaccinated against COVID and by influencing others to get vaccinated.

So, if you've not been vaccinated you need to just go do it. Ignore all the wild stories out there about unfounded and unproven side effects that have absolutely no basis in science, the science created by God.

I had a side effect, yet here I stand. After my second shot I left the facility feeling energized—feeling invincible. Sayonara Covid. But after I had driven only a short distance, I noticed my vision was blurry. I couldn't see well enough to drive, so I pulled to the side of the road. Concerned, I phoned the number they gave me to call if I didn't feel well.

After I explained my symptoms, they asked me for my exact location and told me to stay put. They would come to me. That sounded ominous. A nice young lady arrived just a moment later and she immediately alleviated my adverse reaction when she handed me the eyeglasses I had left behind.

There are no ridiculous side effects—only tall tales. Get vaccinated. And if for some reason you don't want to do it to protect yourself, do it to protect

others. Save lives. Get vaccinated. Don't be the unvaccinated one that spreads death and destruction. No one should want to put themselves in that position. If the Pope can do it, so can you.

So, when today's gospel tells us to reconcile with our brother, it applies to more than just the settling of differences between individuals. It also applies to the regard, care, and concern we have for how our individual activities affect others. As stewards of Jesus' Gospel, we are asked to not only refrain from hurting our brother; we are asked to live in a way that benefits our brother. That is the lifestyle to which today's gospel calls us.

As we continue our celebration this morning, let us pray for the grace, wisdom, and strength to live as good and loving global citizens. This is what it means to be good stewards of the Gospel.