



In the first reading, Saint Paul speaks of the splendor, the brightness, of God's covenant with his people through Moses. He goes on to speak of the greater splendor of the new covenant that came through Christ. Paul, the Jew, does not dismiss his Jewish heritage, but he declares that in the gospel he has found something of surpassing value. In a similar way, Jesus, the Jew, in the gospel reading, is respectful of his own Jewish tradition, 'don't imagine that I have come to abolish the Law and the Prophets'. However, he also declares that he has come to complete the Law and the Prophets, to bring their true intention to fulfillment. Both Paul and Jesus valued the good in their religious tradition but were open to the ways that God was working to enrich that tradition. We too are called to value the good in our own religious tradition, to critique the shadow side of that tradition and to be open and receptive to the ways that the Lord is constantly renewing and enriching our religious tradition.

Secondly, This is an interesting statement from Jesus. There are many things that could be said about it regarding the law and Jesus' fulfillment of the law. But one thing worth reflecting upon is the great lengths Jesus goes to identify the importance of not only one letter of the law but more specifically, the smallest part of a letter. The ultimate law of God, as brought to fulfillment in Christ Jesus, is love.

If we look at this passage above, in light of the perfection of the law of love, we can hear Jesus saying that the details of love, even the smallest detail, is of grave importance. The smaller the detail one is attentive to in love of God and love of neighbor, the greater is the fulfillment of the law of love to the greatest degree.

Think, today, about those whom God has put in your life to love. This would especially apply to family members and especially to spouses. How attentive are you to every small act of kindness and compassion? Do you regularly look for opportunities to offer an encouraging word? Do you make an effort, even in the smallest of details, to show you care and are there and are concerned? Love is in the details and the details magnify this glorious fulfillment of God's law of love.

Let us pray:

Lord, help me to be attentive to all the big and many small ways I am called to love You and others. Help me, especially, to look for the smallest of opportunities to show this love and thus fulfill Your law.

Jesus, I trust in You.