

## Common Rule Reflection

### Chapter 2 – Jesus and Us Paragraph 4 & 10 (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)

4. Jesus did not come to judge the world, but to save us from ourselves. He taught about quality and equity; he taught about humility and mercy; he taught about seeing deeply into the heart; he taught about forgiveness and understanding...

10. ...We try to understand the way Jesus did – in compassion, patience, and wisdom.

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 Every once in a while we get a glimpse of very special and unique values – virtues that form the foundation of what it really means to be a child of God, and a follower of Jesus. It happens here, in the above selections, where we must stop to gather in and consider what treasures they offer.

Let us consider those that are mentioned: equity, humility, mercy, forgiveness, understanding, compassion, patience, and wisdom. Likewise, we could add others that are similar like empathy or sacrifice. And now, let us also bring into the picture the very place where these things are learned: our earth, our reality, our present moment.

We sometimes wonder about all the trouble, suffering, tribulation, and conflict that we experience in this life, on this planet. (And to be sure, we also experience joy, and beauty, and love, and wonder!) But have you ever considered that *there is no other reality possible* where the things like compassion, mercy, forgiveness, and empathy can be experienced to the breadth and depth that they can be here and now?

Even in the Kingdom of Heaven, in all its perfection, where there is no longer any weeping or tears, where everything is run without flaw or fault – the souls can know what compassion, empathy, mercy, and forgiveness are, but they can't really experience it, and know it like it really is here on earth.

But here, my Brothers and Sisters, on this planet, in this life, we have been given a great gift that is available in no other reality – to become aware of the needs of others, and to act upon them, thereby learning to be compassionate, and forgiving, and merciful, and empathic. To not do so is to turn our back on our own True Selves, and the God-presence within us.

Does this mean that our loving God created famines, diseases, wars, oppression, and abuse that we might grow and benefit from them? Certainly not. But these things *are* a by-product of a free-will existence, and as such, we can make some good from them.

So let us, step by step, moment by moment, venture forward, to actually live these virtues – really feel them, taste them, experience them to their fullest, because now is the time and place to nurture them within us. Do not let it pass without participating!