

The “Big Three” Cable TV news channels, in no particular order, are CNN, MSNBC, and Fox. Each of them have a slogan, too ... respectively: “The Worldwide Leader”, “Lean Forward”, and “Fair and Balanced”.

Each of these slogans may sound good, but we all know that these days, there is nothing fair or balanced about anybody’s news, they are all leaning in some way or another, and as far as leadership ... well, some days it’s hard to tell what’s true or what’s spin.

And most certainly, the “way of the world” is to jockey for position, slip in half truths, and do what you can to get ahead.

And St. Paul speaks directly against that when he says:

*Stop lying to one another,
since you have taken off the old self with its practices
and have put on the new self,
which is being renewed, for knowledge,
in the image of its creator.*

Admonishing his listeners, and us as well to:

Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.

In today’s Gospel of Luke, we hear Luke’s take on the Beatitudes.

Most of the time, the Beatitudes we hear are from Matthew’s Gospel, and he has eight. [I’ll let you look that up online or in your Bible later.]

Luke, however has four, which we just heard: ... *the poor ... [the] hungry ... [the] weeping ... [the] hate[d] ...*

Unique to Luke, are the four ‘Woes’ which are sort of a counterpoint to the previous 4 statements. And hearing these from the mouth of Our Lord might make us a bit uncomfortable.

It’s a sort of “fair balance” that we aren’t necessarily ready to embrace at all levels.

Yet Jesus wants all parts of us ... and Jesus wants 100% of our heart, mind, and soul ... committed to the Gospel.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for a deeper commitment to Christ and His Gospel. May the light of the Holy Spirit penetrate where we need it - not necessarily where we might want it - and in that light, may we surrender to the Cross a little more each day.