

*“[T]he Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force.”*

This one line in today’s Gospel is puzzling at best. Different commentators view it in a variety of ways.

Contemporary Catholic commentators see it as the persecutions of the Faith.

Older Catholic commentators see it as the need to discipline ourselves, and to allow the grace of God to violently transform us to be fit for the Kingdom of God.

Protestant commentators would say we need a “violent” faith in order to enter the Kingdom of God.

I would posit that it means that many people want a “piece” of the Kingdom, but very few seem to truly want the entire package. In order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, we must surrender ourselves. We must enter as a little child. We must allow Christ to save us from our sins. Yet we choose to persist in our old ways.

Modern folks seem to always want results without giving anything else up.

It would seem that the “violence” the kingdom is suffering would be when people want to be seen as Christians, but have their own designs on how to do this.

How difficult it is to honestly surrender our wills to God’s Will ... to allow Christ to truly redeem every dark corner of our soul. We fight God at every turn, baptizing our own ideas and imposing them on God ... and in effect, doing violence to the Kingdom of God by not accepting it as a little child.

To truly be a disciple of Jesus Christ requires a radical transformation and a complete surrender of every aspect of our lives to the power of God. Any attachment to sin, any habitual sin is a fresh wound on the Body of Christ.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ ... let us pray to enter the Kingdom of Heaven as a little child. Let us resolve to accept His grace and His Will for us and for our lives. May we allow God to truly transform us ... to put aside the old person and to allow God to re-make us into the likeness of Christ.