

Nov. 1, 2020 Mt. 23: 1-12 & Mal. 1: 14b-2:2b, 8-10

[www.theark1.com](http://www.theark1.com)

[Zoom Connection](#)

Connie May © 9/29/17

Drawing with permission by Fr. Robert Beck

Link to [Beck](#) (paywall) other [Beck](#)

Stone, Naomi. [The Greatest of These is Love](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [The Triumph of Appearance](#)

[Monastery Sunday Homilies](#) 11/5/17

### ENTERING THE SCENE:

Fr. Beck in his drawing draws our eyes to Jesus' finger pointing to the ground. He wants our man in the litter to "get grounded" in what truth really is. When we 'lift up' people and give them authority, we need to check out their choices. Do what they say and what they do match up? For Jesus it always did, so the people recognized that and gave him authority in their lives. We are warned against taking outward symbols and practices as truth. Truth comes when we are given the respect that a son or daughter of God happens. So like Jesus in our drawing, we need to take off our sandals, become grounded in his teachings and be eternally grateful for the fact that we all have but one Father.

### Mt. 23:1-12

1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: 2 The **teachers of the law** and the **Pharisees** sit in **Moses' seat**. 3 So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not **practice** what they preach. 4 They **tie up heavy loads** and put them on men's **shoulders**, but they themselves are not willing to **lift a finger** to move them. 5 Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their **phylacteries** wide and the **tassels** on their garments long; 6 they love the place of **honor at banquets** and the most important seats in the **synagogues**; 7 they love to be greeted in the **marketplaces** and to have men call them '**Rabbi**.' 8 But you are not to be called '**Rabbi**,' for you have only one **Master** and you are all **brothers**. 9 And do not call anyone on earth '**father**,' for you have one **Father**, and he is in heaven. 10 Nor are you to be called '**teacher**,' for you have one **Teacher**, the **Christ**. 11 The greatest among you will be your **servant**. 12 For whoever **exalts** himself will be **humbled**, and whoever **humbles** himself will be **exalted**.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** Jesus teaches that the greatest among us is the one who serves our real needs in love. Who is the greatest person in your life these days?

**PRAYER:** Lord, you remind me of a truth that resides deep in my soul. When I experience being loved, I get a glimpse of the Father's love. It might be the person who smiles, holds the door, helps me out of a chair, remembers my birthday, offers to drive me to the doctor when I am sick, listens when I am grieving or celebrating, gives me the benefit of the doubt, and much more. Help me as I try to be your servant with those you put in my life today. Amen.

