

## The Sermon on the Mount for Interreligious Dialogue

Hindu/Christian philosopher and theologian **Raimon Panikkar** is the author of *Intra-Religious Dialogue* (Paulist Press, 1999). The following reflection was published in the *Bulletin* of the Monastic Interreligious Dialogue in 1986.

When you enter into an intrareligious dialogue, do not *think* beforehand what you have to believe.

When you witness to your faith, do not defend yourself or your vested interests, sacred as they may appear to you. Do like the birds in the skies: they sing and fly and do not defend their music or their beauty.

When you dialogue with somebody, look at your partner as a revelatory experience as you would- and should- look at the lilies in the fields.

When you engage in intrareligious dialogue, try first to remove the beam in your own eye before removing the speck in the eye of your neighbor.

Blessed are you when you do not feel self-sufficient while being in dialogue.

Blessed are you when you trust the other because you trust in Me.

Blessed are you when you face misunderstandings from your own community or others for the sake of your fidelity to Truth.

Blessed are you when you do not give up your convictions, and yet you do not set them up as absolute norms.

Woe unto you, you theologians and academicians, when you dismiss what others say because you find it embarrassing or not sufficiently learned.

Woe unto you, you practitioners of religions, when you do not listen to the cries of the little ones.

Woe unto you, you religious authorities, because you prevent change and (re)conversion.

Woe unto you, you religious people, because you monopolize religion and stifle the Spirit which blows where and how she wills.