

The Beatitudes

Weekly Reflections
16th February 2025
6th week of Ordinary Time
Year C



From the Gospel of Luke (6:17, 20-26)

At that time: Jesus came down with the Twelve and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and spurn your name as evil on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.'

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father,

Help us to keep a firm hold of the conviction that you continue to change us for the better - that whoever we are, whatever we do, whatever we face, nothing is outside the scope of your renewing power.

Through Christ Our Lord

Amen

Reflection on the Gospel from Sunday:

In Sunday's Gospel, Luke presents an image that is different to what the world teaches. The poor and needy are truly blessed! It is they who are marginalised by society today, whom this sermon brings very specific good news. People in power are threatened by Jesus' message, which challenges the very things that society regards as essential to happiness. Luke proposes that material poverty leads us to greater detachment from the things of this world, thereby allowing us to attach ourselves to spiritual values.

The beatitudes confront us with choices concerning temporal or earthly possessions. They challenge us to purify our hearts, to embrace the values of God that are completely opposed to those of the world. The things that we think we need to be happy and successful are exposed as being of no value at all in God's economy. The beatitudes provide us with the heart of the Christian way of life. It takes complete trust to live the beatitudes. Jesus is asking us for that complete trust in God, no matter what our condition in life.

What does the church teach us about worldly wealth and the responsibilities required of those who have an abundance of it? Social justice teachings of the church have been consistently forthcoming and this half term we have reflected on the Catholic Social teaching of Dignity of Work and Participation. This reminds us that the teachings of Jesus were not just for that time, but for all time. Jesus is addressing us with the challenge of his teaching. How does this make you feel? Jesus did not say that it was wrong to own things, have enough to eat or have a comfortable home, but his sermon reminds us that this should not be our sole focus in life. What steps might you take this week to focus more attention on spiritual values?