

November 6, 2022

All Saints Sunday

Luke 6:20-31?

The Gospel selection this morning is a little thin. Luke does a nice telling of the Sermon on the Mount. This morning I thought it might be more edifying for the soul if we took a look at Mathew 5: 1-12. Mathew's telling has more meat on the bones and more to get your teeth into.

The Beatitudes loosely translates to be the Blessings of True Discipleship. Some people have commented that they are the Blue-Prints to building the Kingdom here on earth. There are nine blessings that Jesus addresses in Mathew. As you can imagine they mean something different than what appears on the page. I am using a very good translation from the Greek and some Hebrew. I would love to find just a Hebrew translation.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” Being blessed in this context means heavenly or spiritual blessedness. Rather than earthly happiness or prosperity. In Hebrew poor here means both

materially poor and the faithful among God's people. These people are totally dependant on God and this makes them spiritually rich.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." These people are mourning over their own sins and the suffering of humanity. These people are genuinely repentant and will be comforted in the age to come. This form of mourning has been called a holy sorrow. Paul talks about an unholy sorrow that leads to great despair. This is talked about in 2Cor 7:10.

"Blessed are the meek, they will inherit the earth." Meekness is an attitude of being content with both honour and dishonour. The meek are God controlled and through their prayers God gives mastery over their passions. Mostly the passion of anger. Meekness is not passive gentleness, but strength under control.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled." Righteousness translates here to be justification. These people see the presence of God and His kingdom in their lives.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." Mercy is love set in motion. Love expressed in action. God's mercy was Jesus taking our suffering upon Himself in order to grant us His kingdom and setting us free from sin. We in return are to be merciful to others that we encounter.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." To be pure means not to be mixed with anything else. The pure of heart are devoted to the worship and service of God.

“Blessed are the peace makers, for they shall be called the sons of God.” The Holy Spirit gives peace as a sign of God’s presence to those who meditate on Christ’s life and ministry. They try to imitate Christ in this way. Peace brings communion with God and concord with all of creation. It is a sign of our sanctity. Peace makers share God’s peace with those around them. When we share peace we truly become the children of God. We do that every Sunday in our services. That small gesture has a very deep meaning.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.” The children of God uphold His truth. They do not compromise their faith with the ways of the world.

“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my name’s sake.” The Christian disciple walks the road of the prophets, saints and martyrs. Suffering for Christ is attended with inexpressible joy. The Greek for exceedingly glad is to leap exceedingly with great joy.

This is just the highlights. We will get much deeper into it on Sunday morning. God bless you all, Pastor D.