

Living the Word

Year C - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A resource for personal, family and community prayer.

MEDITATING ON THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

“How happy you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.”



Gospel: Luke 6: 17, 20-26

You are invited to read the Gospel passage attentively, respectfully and reverently as a gift of God.

¹⁷Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon. ²⁰Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: “How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. ²²Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man.

²³Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. ²⁵Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

²⁶Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.”

Background to Gospel passage

Where does it happen?

It's on the “level ground,” on the bottom of a hill or mountain.

When does it happen?

Having spent the night in prayer, Jesus has just chosen twelve apostles from among his disciples.

Who is there?

Jesus with his newly chosen twelve apostles and the crowds - both Jews and Gentiles (Tyre and Sidon were predominantly Gentile areas).

What happens?

Jesus offers a radically new way of looking at what matters in human life and where true fulfillment is to be found. The values of humility- (knowing who we are and whose we are), steadfast trust in God in all circumstances, and courageously living in hope in the face of life's challenges - these are the way to a deeper and fuller life. This turns upside down the world view that human happiness is to be found in the attainment of power, prestige and possessions.

Suggested Guidelines to help you recognise this passage in your life experience.

“Stopped at a piece of level ground.”

Can you identify people like Jesus in your community or society who minister to those who are vulnerable and in need with great respect and reverence for their human dignity, and without any trace of condescension?

“fixing his eyes on them”

Can you remember people in your life- parents, guardians, teachers, priests- who sat you down and, from their wisdom, gave you very important guidance and direction on values, morals and principles for life?

“How happy are you who are poor.”

Can you enter into the experience of Jesus

by remembering a time when you reached out to people who were considered to be needy, afflicted, or marginalized? You came to see that, while you had something to offer, you also had so much to receive from them.

“But alas for you who are rich, you are having your consolation now.”

Can you identify any prophetic voices in the world today who are challenging those with wealth, power and privilege to a change of heart in order to create a more fraternal, compassionate and loving society - an experience of life in the kingdom of God today?

What does this gospel remind me of? *Where was it? When was it? Who was there? What happened?*

Now I can see that God's loving presence and action was in that life experience.

Prayer Response - you are invited to respond in prayer in your own words.

Heavenly Father, I thank you for the times when I have experienced this gospel in my life...

Heavenly Father, I am sorry for the times I have fallen short of living this gospel...

Heavenly Father, please help me to live this gospel...



You are invited to deepen this prayer experience by resting your heart silently in God's presence and love. The quiet repetition of a word or phrase from the passage may help you on this journey to stillness and silence.

An Invitation to Reflect

What new insight has the Gospel opened my eyes to see?

Action

This week I will try to live the Gospel by...

Thought for the week

Only when we rid ourselves of any notion of superiority or inferiority can we experience the true gift of the other.

Rest in this truth, hold it in prayer and trust that it will bear fruit in your life.

Children



A large crowd came from all parts of the local area to listen to what Jesus had to say. Jesus teaches us to be kind and caring, even when life feels hard, because God sees our struggles and will bless us.

Can you think of a 'Jesus person' in your life- a sibling, parent or grandparent- who encouraged you to be kind and caring toward other people?

Draw or write about this 'Jesus person' and how they helped you be kind and caring to other people.



Father, I thank you for the gift of this story which has opened my eyes to see the kind and caring presence of Your Son in my life.

Action: this week I will try to show love by...

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