

Social Justice

January 18th 2009

Opening Prayer,

Beatitudes - Matthew 5:3-12

Meditation: Divide into two groups—side one read the Beatitude, side 2 read the “lucky” statement. The leader will pray the prayer.

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

How lucky you are if you are poor!!

God will make you rich!!

**Forgive us, Lord,
for surrounding ourselves
with so many things
that we can no longer see you.
For everything we have is
your gift to us, and those
whose hands are empty
know that best.**

2. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

How lucky you are if your heart has been broken!!

It will mend even stronger!!

**Forgive us, Lord,
for being so quick to complain
about our own troubles,
and slow to see the
troubles other people have.
Help us use our troubles to grow strong,
so that we can help others.**

3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

How lucky you are if you're not very important!!

God will make you great!!

**Forgive us, Lord,
for wanting to be more important than others,
when even the unimportant
are important to you,
and that's all that matters.
Help us to see other people the way you see them.**

***4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.***

How lucky you are if you're starving!!
You'll get all you want and more!!

**Thank you, Lord, for providing us with so many good things,
that we never really go hungry,
and hardly know what it means to be starving.
Open our eyes to the needs of those who haven't got
what we've got,
because you have called them the lucky ones.
And give food to the hungry.**

5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

How lucky you are if you are tender with others!!
You know how tender God really is!!

**Forgive us, Lord,
for being hard and unforgiving with others,
and even with ourselves.
It shows how little we know you as you really are.
Tell us again and again
the good news that you forgive us,
so that we can grow into
forgiving people.**

6. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

How lucky you are if you're straight with people!!
You see God very clearly indeed!!

**Forgive us, Lord,
for so often being crooked
instead of straight,
unfair instead of fair,
cheating instead of honest,
pretending instead of open.
How can we complain that we
can't see you,
when we're the very opposite
of you!**

***7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called
children of God.***

How lucky you are if you make friends with people!!
You've brought a bit of heaven to earth!!

**Forgive us, Lord,
for often making more enemies than friends.
That way will never turn the world into a paradise,
only a hell.
Teach us your way of
spreading friendship to everyone,
and treating them
as we'd like them
to treat us.**

***8. Blessed are the persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.***

How lucky you are if people hate you for standing up for
what is right!!
A new world can be built on people like you!!

**Forgive us, Lord,
for being such cowards
in standing up for what is right.
It's much easier to say what other people say,
and do what they do.
Give us the courage to do what we know is right,
whatever other people say,**

**because that's the only way a new world
can be built.**

Amen.

Adapted from "What Jesus Taught" by Hubert Richards, Liturgical Press
Prayer

The last two weeks we have been talking about Morality and how to make good moral decisions in your lives. Each day, we make moral decisions, we think about getting out of bed, maybe we should stay in bed and not go to work. These are all moral decisions that we must make each and every day.

We have here the 10 Commandments and the Precepts of the Church that give us guidelines and help us to try and live as Jesus taught us to live.

Now, look at the Beatitudes that we prayed when we started our classes, these are also guidelines for our Christian lives. These are Jesus' guide to living life.

We have in the Church two more guidelines called
Corporal Works of Mercy, the other is called the Spiritual Works of Mercy.
Many lifelong Catholics use these as their yardstick to help us live good lives. I will have a handout for next week.

Tonight we are going to talk about Social Justice because it definitely fits in to the topic of moral decisions and our lives as followers of Christ.

We have a speaker here Franklin Martinez and he will talk to us about Social Justice in our world today.

Closing Prayer
Prayer of St. Francis

You can pick up handouts at the class or call Deacon Cecil.