

SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



Wednesday Feb 12 for the 6th Sunday in Ordinary time

OPENING PRAYER: Lord, in your Word today, you say to us, “Blessed are those who meditate upon your Word and place their trust in you.” Bless us now, Lord, as we gather together to meditate upon your word and help us to always place our trust in you and not in the things of this world. Amen.

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE Luke 6:17, 20-26

Ministering to a Great Multitude.ⁱ

17* And he came down with them and stood on a stretch of level ground. A great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon

18 came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and even those who were tormented by unclean spirits were cured.

19 Everyone in the crowd sought to touch him because power came forth from him and healed them all.

Sermon on the Plain.^k

20* And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: “Blessed are you who are poor,*for the kingdom of God is yours.

21 Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh.^l

22 Blessed are you when people hate you,

and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man.^m

23 Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way.ⁿ

24 But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.^o

25 But woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep.^p

26 Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way.^q

Notes:

* [6:17] The coastal region of Tyre and Sidon: not only Jews from Judea and Jerusalem, but even Gentiles from outside Palestine come to hear Jesus (see [Lk 2:31–32](#); [3:6](#); [4:24–27](#)).

* [6:20–49] Luke’s “Sermon on the Plain” is the counterpart to Matthew’s “Sermon on the Mount” ([Mt 5:1–7:27](#)). It is addressed to the disciples of Jesus, and, like the sermon in Matthew, it begins with beatitudes ([Lk 6:20–22](#)) and ends with the parable of the two houses ([Lk 6:46–49](#)). Almost all the words of Jesus reported by Luke are found in Matthew’s version, but because Matthew includes sayings that were related to specifically Jewish Christian problems (e.g., [Mt 5:17–20](#); [6:1–8](#), [16–18](#)) that Luke did not find appropriate for his predominantly Gentile Christian audience, the “Sermon on the Mount” is considerably longer. Luke’s sermon may be outlined as follows: an introduction consisting of blessings and woes ([Lk 6:20–26](#)); the love of one’s enemies ([Lk 6:27–36](#)); the demands of loving one’s neighbor ([Lk 6:37–42](#)); good deeds as proof of one’s goodness ([Lk 6:43–45](#)); a

parable illustrating the result of listening to and acting on the words of Jesus (Lk 6:46–49). At the core of the sermon is Jesus' teaching on the love of one's enemies (Lk 6:27–36) that has as its source of motivation God's graciousness and compassion for all humanity (Lk 6:35–36) and Jesus' teaching on the love of one's neighbor (Lk 6:37–42) that is characterized by forgiveness and generosity.

* [6:20–26] The introductory portion of the sermon consists of blessings and woes that address the real economic and social conditions of humanity (the poor—the rich; the hungry—the satisfied; those grieving—those laughing; the outcast—the socially acceptable). By contrast, Matthew emphasizes the religious and spiritual values of disciples in the kingdom inaugurated by Jesus (“poor in spirit,” Mt 5:3; “hunger and thirst for righteousness,” Mt 5:6). In the sermon, blessed extols the fortunate condition of persons who are favored with the blessings of God; the woes, addressed as they are to the disciples of Jesus, threaten God's profound displeasure on those so blinded by their present fortunate situation that they do not recognize and appreciate the real values of God's kingdom. In all the blessings and woes, the present condition of the persons addressed will be reversed in the future.

Questions for sharing

1. What verse in today's readings makes you feel most uncomfortable? What verse challenges you the most?
2. What would you name as blessings and curses in your life?
3. What are the things you hunger for the most? What is the deepest desire of your heart?
4. The sin of Pride is glaringly evident in today's gospel. How are you challenged to be more humble?

Commentary

This weekend and next weekend, we will listen to excerpts from what may be the most challenging verses in Luke's gospel, his “Sermon on the Plain.”

Jesus takes the accepted beliefs of his day and stands them on their heads. He names four groups of people who would have been regarded as very blest, and states that they are anything but blest. And he takes four groups who would have been regarded as cursed and pronounced them blest. Jesus is speaking to a situation in which the economically poor are reduced to begging—they are marginalized. The rich and better off members of the community fail in their covenant with God by not coming to the rescue of the poor. When this happens, God sides with the poor and speaks on their behalf. Let's now look briefly at each of the four sets of blessings and woes. Blessed are the poor... and woe to the rich. The poor are not blest because they are materially destitute; rather, they are blest because they are able to place their trust in God in the midst of poverty. They are blest because God is on their side. The rich are not cursed simply because they are materially well off, but because of their failure to come to the rescue of the poor by generously sharing their blessings with them. They are having their reward now but they will lose out big time in the reign of God. Blessed are the hungry... woe to the full. Jesus is not saying it's a blessing to be starving and a curse to have a good meal. He is saying we are blessed if we can keep trusting in God in empty/hungry times. It is also a blessing if we are hungry for God. It is a curse if our "plenty" times lead us to ignore God. It is a curse to be spiritually self-satisfied. Blessed are you if weeping...woe if laughing. It is a blessing if we mourn for our sins and for the injustices in our world and for the losses we experience in life. It is not a curse to be happy, but it is a curse if our laughter is a cover-up for our sadness or if it is at the expense of others. Some become rich at the expense of others. Blessed are you if people hate you... woe if people speak well of you. We are blessed if people reject us because of our love for Jesus. On the other hand, it is a curse to be spoken well of in a world that rejects Jesus. Poverty, hunger, tears and rejection are not to be sought after. But if they come to us as a result of our following Jesus, then they are blessings. God can turn poverty, hunger, tears and rejection into blessings. We see this when people in bad times turn to God and convert to his ways. On the other hand, a good financial portfolio could lead to our spiritual demise. In Jesus' sermon on the plain, he is saying that a key part of living in his kingdom invokes standing with the poor, the hungry, the grieving, the persecuted and the marginalized. Finally, the beatitudes only make sense to one who has fully embraced the ways of Jesus. To the rest, they are nonsense.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Parish Hall and Zoom
Wednesday, Feb 12 6:30 – 7:30pm
Weekly on Wednesday
Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting
Time: Feb 12, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618
Passcode: 280607