



6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Luke 6: 17, 20-26

And he came down with them 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."

Some things to think about...

What does the word 'blessed' mean to you?

What is the difference between happiness and joy?

Do you think bringing joy to others can also bring joy to you?

We can have moments of happiness - for instance, when we hear a joke or eat our favourite meal. Joy, however, is something we can choose. We can still experience joy even when we feel sad or disappointed. For example, when you start a new school, you may be feeling nervous, but in the same moment, joyful, as you get to make new friends. If you look for them, there will always be hidden blessings to be joyful about.

Activity

Complete the **"Alphabet Blessings" worksheet** on the Mini Vinnies' website. Can you think of 26 things you're grateful for, starting with each letter of the alphabet?

Teacher's Notes

In some translations of the Beatitudes the word 'happy' is used. In the new Missal the word 'blessed' is used, which perhaps helps the Beatitudes to make more sense as they can be seen as contradictory statements if 'happy' is chosen as the translation. How can those who are hungry be happy?

Luke's version of the Beatitudes is slightly different from Matthew's but he shows that those who are full of compassion will be blessed by Christ. Such people are selfless in the way they care for others, always putting the needs of others before themselves. They don't serve others because they are looking for a reward but because they believe it is the right thing to do. This is what can bring us joy.

In this passage from Luke, Jesus seems to suggest that when we have a lot it is easier to forget to help those who don't have what they need. Throughout Luke's Gospel Jesus teaches about wealth and the need to reach out to those who are poor and on the margins of society; these ideas are central to the mission of the SVP and Mini Vinnies.

This is a challenging passage but it helps us to remember that life is a mixture of joy and sadness and that as Vincentians we have the opportunity to bring joy into the lives of others, which in turn may bring joy to each of us.

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