

Callen  
Please put  
family on  
line  
(from Bob  
Meyer)

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday ord. time – yr A .

In the gospel today, Jesus is teaching a large gathering important steps in life that he would like his disciples to practice. They are known as the Beatitudes. And if we listen, Jesus is telling us also these are the steps we should practice in our daily lives. Since our Christian belief is that Christ is our redemption and our justification, and that living a life modeled on the beatitudes leads to happiness and fulfillment. That belief is over two thousand years old and is held by all Christians over all the world. So the Beatitudes summarize what Jesus is about and those who follow Jesus must also be about, such as those who show mercy to others, by being ~~the~~ good to the poor, or the clean of hearts, and ~~the~~ 5 others attributes of ~~the~~ mentioned in the gospel.

2

These are characteristics Jesus would like to see in every one of us, if we want to be true followers of his. Each beatitude starts with the word, blessed, expressing in a few short words, the heart of the subject. They are written so that Jesus is inviting us to practice these virtues in our lives. Our Christian faith tells us that Christ is our savior and our justification, so that living a life modeled after Christ and the beatitudes leads to happiness and fulfillment in this world. We see those qualities in the gospel today as Jesus speaks to us of love and mercy. He tells us that it is necessary to show love and mercy to everyone, if we want to receive love and mercy for ourselves. We know our world has changed a lot since Jesus walked this earth. There is without a doubt more crime, and more poverty and even persecution in some parts, but as Christians, we must continue to treat each one with respect and love. Jesus said, blessed are the merciful

3

for they shall obtain mercy. These are the words Jesus spoke and they are powerful words, because they are directed toward you and me. Referring to each of the beatitudes, Christ gave the promise of an eternal reward. You can imagine that Christ's promise gave strength to millions down the years and it is still giving strength to us today, our present generation to persevere in our faith and to put our trust in God. When I look at the beatitudes and ponder each one, it makes <sup>Me</sup> think that Jesus is speaking to each one of us and asking us how we are carrying out his wishes. Some of the Beatitudes don't seem to be very personal to our life, until we take some time to meditate on them. However the greatest proof is the fact that Jesus fulfilled them in his public life on earth. He showed us how we can fulfill each Beatitude . We see that Jesus began his life in poverty by being born in a manger in a stable. He experienced sorrow at

(4)

the death of his friend, Lazarus. He was hungry in the desert and he was thirsty on the cross. He showed mercy to his crucifiers as he hung on the cross. His first words after his resurrection, Jesus offered, "Peace" to his disciples . So, we can see how Jesus taught us the beatitudes by putting them into practice . So then, as we deal with others in this world, we should put our own beatitudes into daily practice and see how ours line up with those of Jesus' beatitudes. Christ taught us that the source of the quality of human acts lies in the heart, that is, in a man's soul. So, we can see that the true test of a disciple lies in practicing and living the Beatitudes. And, if you from time to time want to check to see how you size up to Jesus' beatitudes, you can find a list of them on the granite monument <sup>placed</sup> in the front of our church on Mulberry street. But the way I look at the Beatitudes in my own mind, that would

(4)

summarize most of them, would be, "Blessed is the person who follows Jesus' instructions to live a life that would make him proud, for surely happiness will surely proceed that person in this life and the next. God bless!

