

February 16, 2025

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time 2025 (Jeremiah 17; Corinthians 15; Luke 6:17, 20-26)

-Luke's Beatitudes (Beatitude means Happiness) / Who doesn't want to be happy.

-HOW TO BE HAPPY: DETACHMENT!

-Luke, Jesus gives Beatitudes on the plain / On "Level Ground").

(The plain / Symbol of ordinary life / Our path to heaven begins here / A daily life lived and shared / In the daily quiet gift we are).

-Luke's: Blessed are "the poor" vs Mathew's Beatitudes: "poor in spirit."

-Some say Matthew's is spiritual and Luke's is down to earth / I say: No, both lead to the spiritual.

-Things of this world are lacking / not complete in and of themselves.

-To be poor (What is lacking here will be completed in God).

Luke gives 4 woes.

-The 4 woes lead us not to forget Jesus' presence in our lives through the clutter and noise of the stuff / (Rich, filled now, laugh now, Speak well of you now).

Perhaps Luke is reminding us:

-1 Don't get too attached to the things of the world for happiness and Miss Jesus standing right there with us.

-2 And then we miss the stability God brings through the clutter of the stuff which can bring frustration and instability.

-The origin of Happiness is God / Not the stuff.

-When we see the stuff through the eyes of faith, we realize things may bring a moment of happiness, but also points us towards something deeper.

I am reminded of this:

-A family close to me / Their wealth is not the source of their happiness / Their faith in Jesus Christ is the source / They understand their origin of their happiness is Jesus; not the money.

-While in Raleigh I was reminded / When my happiness was based on pursuing things for their sake alone / I found more frustration than a sustained happiness.

-I realize now, whether poor or rich / The things of this world are incomplete and lacking / Thus when we do experience "a good" leading to a moment of happiness / WE UNDERSTAND THE ORIGIN IS OF GOD.

-My happiness is now not tied to what I have / But about who is now the center of all that I have and my being / Who will one day complete what is lacking presently in my life.

-Magnificat: From a stretch of level ground, Jesus reveals that holiness is attainable by all / Jesus declares blessed are the poor, the hungry, the weeping, the hated / All who cry out for what can only be satisfied by God / Blessed are those who trust not in themselves but in the Lord / Refusing to be discouraged by our fragility, limitations and needs / Our hope and happiness is centered on Christ Jesus Raised from the dead / We need not fear the heat, distress, or droughts that afflict us / In Christ Jesus we shall bear unfading fruit.

Notes:

-When God, not the things, form the origin of our happiness / Our happiness will be more stable enduring both the ups and downs of life.

**Vivat Jesus,
Fr. Vic Gournas**