

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

FULFILMENT

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

Beatitudes (Luke 6: 20-31)

The season of All Saints reminds us that in the Eucharist we share in the whole communion of saints, with all God's people, living and departed. Like them we are called to be a holy people who find our fulfilment in following the lifestyle advocated by Jesus' teaching. Today's reading from Luke's 'sermon on the plain' presents a series of beatitudes, similar to those presented by Matthew in the 'sermon on the mount'. The beatitudes affirm the lifestyle lived when God reigns within our lives.

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's account of the beatitudes is *fulfilment*.

Core extract from the Gospel (Luke 6: 20-23; for reflection throughout the week)

Then Jesus looked up at 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 will be filled.
Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.
Blessed are you when people hate you,
and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you
on account of the Son of Man.
Rejoice on that day and leap for joy,
for surely your reward is great in heaven.'

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Lord Jesus Christ,
you give to your saints
an unending welcome at your festive table.
Inspire us by the examples
of your people who have gone before us,
that we may share with them
the joys of your eternal reign;
for you are our God.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Luke 6: 20-31

Blessings and Woes

Then he looked up at 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 will be filled.

‘Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

‘Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors 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 will be hungry.

‘Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

‘Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Love for Enemies

‘But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (Luke 6: 20-31)

Begin to explore Luke's account of the beatitudes and Jesus' teaching on the plain by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What do you make of Jesus' teaching about the poor, the hungry and those who weep?
- What do you make of Jesus' teaching about the rich, the full, and those who laugh?
- How realistic is it to love your enemies?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Explore the beatitudes in Matthew's Gospel.

- Matthew 5: 1-12

Explore Luke's consistent teaching on the reversal of fortune.

- Luke 1: 46-55
- Luke 12: 16-21
- Luke 16: 19-31

Explore the vision extended by Isaiah.

- Isaiah 25: 6-8
- Isaiah 65: 13-14

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Exploring online

Widen your exploration of the lifestyle advocated by the beatitudes in Luke by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Beatitudes in Luke
- Fulfilment in the Bible
- Feast of All Saints

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on the lifestyle advocated by the beatitudes in Luke is *fulfilment*. Draw on your own experience of fulfilment. For example:

- When have you really experienced fulfilment?
- What are you really seeking to find in fulfilment?
- When have you seen fulfilment in Christian lives?

What have you learned about fulfilment?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by the lifestyle advocated by the beatitudes in Luke's Gospel or by the Feast of All Saints.

- Make a poster illustrating the beatitudes from Luke's sermon on the plain.
- Make a collage of the fellowship of All Saints around Christ's eucharistic table.
- Make a display of Christian lives in today's world.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of Luke's beatitudes or the Feast of All Saints.



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



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