

Sunday 4th (A) in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (Mt 5,1-12): When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up the mountain. He sat down and his disciples gathered around him. Then he spoke and began to teach them: «Fortunate are those who are poor in spirit for they shall see God, those who mourn (...), the gentle (...), those who hunger and thirst for justice (...), the merciful (...), those with a pure heart (...), those who work for peace (...). Be glad and joyful, for a great reward is kept for you in God (...)».

The Beatitudes in the Sermon on the Mountain

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, at the beginning of the “Sermon on the Mountain” we find the Beatitudes. Its teachings can be inserted in a long tradition of messages in the Old Testament. They are not a kind of Christian superior ethics in view of the “Ten Commandments”, but rather words of moral orientation (discernment) and at the same time words of promise.

Each one of the Beatitudes is born out of Jesus regard directed to his disciples. They describe the disciples’ real situation: they are poor, hungry, crying, hated and persecuted... These are “practical” but also “theological recommendations”, for those who belong to Jesus’ new family. In spite of the concrete threatening situation, this becomes a promise when you look at it with the provident light which comes from the Father.

- Christ continues to suffer in those sent by him: if they are indeed still immersed in Jesus Passion, one can also recognize there the glory of the resurrection that gives a joy greater than all the happiness which could have been formerly felt in the world.