

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Gospel text (Lk 6:17.20-26): Jesus came down with the Twelve and stood on a stretch of level ground with a great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon. And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way.”

“Rejoice and leap for joy on that day!”

Fr. Enric RIBAS i Baciana
(Barcelona, Spain)

Today, we review again the “beatitudes” and the “misfortunes: “Blessed are you when people hate you (...) on account of the Son of Man. (...) But woe to you who laugh now, (...) for you will grieve and weep.” (Lk 6: 22-26). Fidelity to Christ and to his Gospel may make us to be rejected, insulted by the media, and hated, as those who crucified him hated Christ. Some may think this is due to lack of faith, but maybe, after all, is just lack of reasoning. Indeed, it seems our world refuses to think or be free. We are immersed in a lust for pleasure and riches; immersed in consumables; blinded by the libertarian indoctrination full of vain and empty words, which darken our personal standards and values and scorns the Church's and

Christ's teachings, which is the only line of thinking that, right now, truly goes up stream. But, in spite of this, the Lord-Jesus still encourages us: “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way.” (Lk 6:22-23).

Saint John Paul II, in the encyclical *Fides et Ratio*, wrote: “Faith impels reason to leave its isolation and to advocate gladly for what is beautiful, good and true.” The Christian experience, in its saints, shows us the truth of the Gospel and of these words from Holy Father. Confronting a world that indulges in vice and selfishness as the only source of happiness, Jesus shows us another way: the happiness of the Kingdom of God, which our world finds so difficult to assume to the point of hating and rejecting it. Christians, in the midst of all temptations that this “easy life” offers, know the only way is the love Christ has shown for us in the Cross, the way of fidelity to the Father. We know that difficulties should not discourage us. If we truly seek our Lord, “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy” (cf. Lk 6:23).

Thoughts on Today's Gospel

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“Mercy wants you to be merciful? justice wants you to be just. In this way the Creator will appear in his own creature, and the image of God may shine in the mirror of the human heart.” (Saint Leo the Great)

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“The Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the entire world, the entire present and future, and can be understood only by following Jesus and accompanying Him on his journey.” (Benedict XVI).

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“The beatitude we are promised confronts us with decisive moral choices. It invites us to purify our hearts of bad instincts and to seek the love of God above all else (...)” (Catechism Of The Catholic Church, N° 1723)

