

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

Psalm 149

Sing the Lord's praise in the assembly of the faithful. (v1)

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 6:20-31

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith & commitment, & to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Luke 6:20-31

²⁰Then [Jesus] looked up at his disciples & said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²²Blessed are you when people hate you, & when they exclude you, revile you, & defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day & leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ²⁴But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn & weep. ²⁶Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets. ²⁷But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; & from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; & if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you."

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Compare Luke's Sermon on the Plain (6:17-49) with Matthew's Sermon on the Mount (ch5-7), particularly *Luke 6:20-31 & Matthew 5:1-12, 43-44, 7:12*. What do you make of Jesus' different emphases in each? Use your study Bible's notes.
2. What connections do you find with *Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18*? By reading them together what greater point is made about social/economic/political life on earth? *See Psalm 146:3-7; Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 11:32--12:2*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. How does v30 encourage your own generosity? List 5 specific ways for you personally to be more generous in the next 7 days. *See Matthew 6:3*.
4. The word translated "blessed" is also translated "happy" (or perhaps we would say nowadays joyful). How does that change the meaning for you, moving away from material blessings? Where are Christians told to find our sense of happiness & well-being?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. The Golden Rule (v31) is not reciprocal; it's one-sided (cf. *Luke 14:12-24*). How would such one-sided kindness, courtesy, mercy, care, & so forth establish a reputation for your congregation? Would you even want such a reputation?
6. As American elections become increasingly bitter & hateful, how does the Sermon on the Plain (6:17-49, esp. vv26-38) equip you to be a force for peacefulness, temperance, & happiness in your community or workplace? How does that cut against your own preferred political party's platform?

Strength & Endurance Training
*Physical health & wellness involves both;
so too with saintly, spiritual wellness.*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Rejoice in that day & leap for joy,
for surely your reward is great in heaven. (v23a)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

They are before the throne of God, & the one who is seated on the throne
will shelter them. (*Revelation 7:15*)

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