



# Daily Reflections

## February 17, 2019

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### Scripture

#### **Luke 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."

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

People expect to hear the "Blessings" of the Beatitudes in Luke's Gospel and are delighted to do so. But those "Woes" or curses are another story! What does Jesus mean by Woe to those who are rich or filled up or who laugh or who are spoken well of? The poor, the hungry, the weeping and the hated have come to realize that they are dependent on someone or something for help. They cannot go it alone. The truly blessed are those who have become aware that they are dependent on God. The Woes are addressed to those who see no need for God. They see themselves as self-sufficient and self-satisfied. They laugh and giggle their way through life with no concern for those who are hurting. Jesus warns that the day will come when they will fall from their lofty positions in life. Those who finally reach that point without any faith in God will lapse into despair...and what a lonely, non-laughable experience that will be. The Beatitudes in Luke's Gospel serve as a prophetic call to us to get our lives in order today, now, before it is too late. With God's Grace and humility we can do so.

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## **Food for your Journey**

There is the story of a man who came to a holy person seeking healing. The holy person listened patiently as the man listed his complaints and then asked, "Do you really want to be cured?" The man was shocked by the question and said, "Of course I want to be cured. Why else would I have come?" To which the holy person replied, "Most come, not to be cured, that is too painful. They come for relief."

-- Joan Chittister,

The Rule of Benedict

(New York: Crossroad, 1992), 128.

# **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, Where would I be without You? You created me and You sustain my life each and every moment of the day. Let me never forget that without you I am nothing. With You, Lord, all things are possible. Amen