Luke 6:20-26
Raising his eyes toward his disciples Jesus 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.
But 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."

Our Scripture Reflection
Luke uses a theme known as “The Divine Reversal” to impart to his audience the teachings of Jesus. And what does this mean? Our Lord teaches us that the way things are in this life,
especially situations of injustice, will be reversed in the Kingdom of God. Nowhere is this theme more evident than in His teaching known as the Beatitudes. Unlike Matthew’s version which has 9 positive blessings or Beatitudes, Jesus gives four blessings and four woes or curses in Luke’s account. Let’s look at them in a bit of detail:

Blessed are the poor: those who are materially without...Woe to the rich: He does not mean wealthy people in general, but those who are selfishly self-consumed and who ignore the needs of the destitute

Blessed are the hungry: those who have bloated bellies from starvation...Woe to the full: those who are so full of themselves that they chose not to see the pain and need of others

Blessed are the weeping: those who are grieving and who are disillusioned with life....Woe to the laughing: He is not condemning those who enjoy a good joke, but rather, those who laugh their way through life without care or concern for others, especially those in need

Blessed are the hated, the insulted and the despised: those who are ridiculed, attacked, condemned for being a disciple of Jesus....Woe when all speak well of you: when you strive to be everyone’s friend instead of Jesus’ friend, the gladhander who is afraid to speak out against injustice

Jesus uses the Beatitudes to teach us that injustices will have no place in His Kingdom. Those who suffer now will find peace.

Food for your Journey

An Amish man was once asked by an enthusiastic young evangelist whether he had been saved and whether he accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. The gentleman replied, "Why do you ask me such a thing? I could tell you anything. Here is the name of my banker, my grocer and my farm hands. Ask THEM if I am saved."

-Kent Gilbert.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, I want to spend all eternity with You in Heaven. As I carry out my day to day Journey in faith and trust, keep me focused on You and the needs of the least. With the help of Your Grace, May I never miss an opportunity to give You glory! Amen.