



Daily Reflections

November 1, 2016

Scripture

Mathew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.

He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.”

Our Scripture Reflection

Today we celebrate the Feast of All Saints. During this feast we recall the men and woman who throughout history lived the Christian faith at an heroic level. They were people of the Beatitudes. And what does that mean? While they lived IN the world, they were not OF the world. Christians, like the Beatitudes, have always been counter cultural. May we be inspired and motivated this day to live Jesus' way above all others.

Food for your Journey

It's fascinating that Twelve Step programs like AA begin exactly where Jesus begins, poverty of spirit. Step one: I admit I am powerless over (whatever the particular addiction or problem may be) and my life has become unmanageable. Step two: I have come to believe that only a higher power (read God) can restore me. That's poverty of spirit. I can't do it. I am helpless before my sins, my failures, my needs. It seems to me that being a Christian means you realize that that's where you begin every day of your life, needing God's grace. It's hard for us to admit that about ourselves — that we can't do it.

—Leonard J. Vander Zee, “Blessed are the poor in spirit,” September 21, 2003, South Bend Christian Reformed Church Web Site, Sbcrc.org.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Most meek and humble of heart, please make my heart like Your heart. Amen.