

Chaplains Message July'21

The reading this month is taken from the Message Bible, this Bible puts the words into more modern speech.

The reading is from the sermon on the mount and concentrates on the Beatitudes contained in Matthew 5:1-12.

You're blessed.

5:1-2. When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

3. "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

4. "You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

5. "You're blessed when you're content with just who you are-no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

6. "You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

7. "You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves being cared for.

8. "You're blessed when you get your inside world- your mind and heart- put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

9." You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who is really are, and your place in God's family.

10."You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

11-12. "Not only that- count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort, and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens- give a cheer, even! -for though they don't like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

In simplistic terms Brethren the Eight Beatitudes are,

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Be last of all, the servant of all, do not judge others and share all.)
2. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. (Consider well the people you and others have lost, the things you have not done well, and the things you long for.)
3. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Be slow to anger and lose the ego.)
4. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. (Love peace and be involved in helping others to make peace. Trust everyone in the knowledge that they may let you down.)
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. (Strive to do the right thing. Forgive others and then yourself.)
6. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. (Look at things from the eyes of others, walk in their shoes.)
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God. (Build your castle with blameless foundations, not in the air.)
8. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Never stop doing the right thing because of others, just keep on going.)

All of these are aims which could help to make a fairer, more just world in which to live for everyone and every one of us has a part to play in them so let's keep on doing the best we can as we move forward.

We are still painfully aware that the times in which we are living are very unpredictable but as far as the pandemic is concerned we do seem to be coming through it at long last. There is however a bit of a way off till things will be back to (normal) and we must still proceed with caution for the time being. It won't be long and we will get through it.

Till the next time,
Stay safe Brethren.