

**The Sermon on “the Plain”
(6th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C)**

Jeremiah 17:5-8—Blessed are Those Who Trust in the Lord

1. Cursed: he who “trusts in man”
 - a. Heart: “turns away from the LORD”
 - b. Famine: “he shall not see any good come”
2. Blessed: he who “trusts in the LORD”
 - a. Fruit: “like a tree planted by water” (cf. Psalm 1)
 - b. Peace: “not anxious in the year of drought”

Psalm 1—Blessed are They Who Hope in the Lord

1. Avoid Sin: “walks not in the counsel of the wicked” (v. 1)
2. Study Scripture: “on his law (Hb *torah*) he meditates day and night” (v. 2)

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20—The Truth of the Resurrection

1. Necessity of Resurrection: “if not... then your faith is in vain” (15:14)

Luke 6:17, 20-26—The Sermon on “the Plain”

1. Sermon on the Plain: Does Luke contradict Sermon on Mount (Matt 5:1)?
 - a. KJV: “in the plain” (King James Version)
 - b. NAB: “a stretch of level ground”
 - c. RSV: “a level place” (Greek *topou pedinou*)
 - d. Setting: “he went up *the mountain* (Greek *eis to oros*) to pray” (Luke 6:12)
 - e. Setting: “he *came down with them* and stood on a level place” (Luke 6:17)
2. The Beatitudes: “Blessed” (Greek *makarios* = “happy”)
 - a. Poor: yours is “the kingdom of God”
 - b. Hungry: “you shall be satisfied”
 - c. Weep: “you shall laugh”
 - d. Persecuted: “your reward is great in heaven”
3. Woes: (Greek, *ouai* = “cursed”)
 - a. Rich: “you shall hunger”
 - b. Full: “you shall mourn and weep”
 - c. Laughing: “you shall mourn and weep”
 - d. Praised: “their fathers did to the false prophets”
4. Old Testament Background (Deuteronomy 28:1-68)
 - a. Disobedience → Curses (infertility, famine, pestilence, poverty, war, exile)
 - b. Obedience → Blessings (children, crops, cattle, money, weather, peace)

The Catechism on the Beatitudes

The Beatitudes depict *the countenance of Jesus Christ* and portray his charity. They express *the vocation of the faithful* associated with the glory of his Passion and

The Mass Readings Explained

Resurrection; they shed light on *the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life*; they are the *paradoxical promises* that sustain hope in the midst of tribulations; they proclaim *the blessings and rewards already secured*, however dimly, for Christ's disciples; *they have begun in the lives of the Virgin Mary and all the saints.* (CCC 1717)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (6th Sunday Ordinary Time, Year C)

1. What does Jeremiah mean by “trusting” in human beings rather than “in the LORD”? Are there any areas of your own life where you tend to trust in human beings rather than God?

2. According to Psalm 1, what are two key ways for a human being to bear spiritual “fruit”?

3. How is Luke’s account of the Beatitudes different than Matthew’s? How are they similar? What is the significance of the similarities and differences?

For Further Study

1. Pablo Gadenz. *The Gospel of Luke*. Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2018), 129-132.
2. Arthur A. Just, Jr. *Luke*. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament III. Downers Grove: IVP, 2003. Pp. 103-106