



“Tracks for the Lectio Divina for Young Adults”

Lectionautas Project

CELAM/CEBIPAL-SEJ – UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES

Rev. Gabriel Mestre

Translation by Deacon Tony Maceo

LECTIO DIVINA
Sunday, February 14th. 2010
6th. Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C
“Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk”
Psalm 119:105

BIBLICAL TEXT: Luke 6: 12-13.17.20-26

Jesus Chooses His Twelve Apostles

(Matthew 10.1-4; Mark 3.13-19)

¹²About that time Jesus went off to a mountain to pray, and he spent the whole night there.

¹³The next morning he called his disciples together and chose twelve of them to be his apostles.

¹⁷Jesus and his apostles went down from the mountain and came to some flat, level ground. Many other disciples were there to meet him. Large crowds of people from all over Judea, Jerusalem, and the coastal cities of Tyre and Sidon were there too.

Blessings and Troubles

(Matthew 5.1-12)

²⁰Jesus looked at his disciples and said:

God will bless you people who are poor. His kingdom belongs to you!

²¹God will bless you hungry people. You will have plenty to eat!

God will bless you people who are crying. You will laugh!



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²²God will bless you when others hate you and won't have anything to do with you. God will bless you when people insult you and say cruel things about you, all because you are a follower of the Son of Man. ²³Long ago your own people did these same things to the prophets. So when this happens to you, be happy and jump for joy! You will have a great reward in heaven.

²⁴But you rich people are in for trouble. You have already had an easy life! ²⁵You well-fed people are in for trouble. You will go hungry! You people who are laughing now are in for trouble. You are going to cry and weep! ²⁶You are in for trouble when everyone says good things about you. That is what your own people said about those prophets who told lies.

CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION.

1 – READING.

What does this text say?

Dear lectionauts:

Today, we share a text of the Gospel of Luke [Chapter 6] that contains three different topics or areas that are well defined by the “editing” made by the liturgy of the Church:

1. The election of the twelve apostles
2. The coming down from the mountain
3. Blessings and Troubles

In the first part, the Lord prays before making the great decisions that His ministry demands. He now has to choose his closest collaborators: the Apostles...He spends all night in prayer speaking to the Father...

The second part indicates that there are numerous people in there and some have come from Judea and Jerusalem. Others from Tyre and Sidon, two pagan cities. It is a large number of people that represent everyone.

The third part brings the blessings and troubles announced by Jesus:



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- The first section has to do with what is being proclaimed today: be joyful, happy, blessed... A moral life, the Commandments are not “a burden or imposition” to make our lives harder, but rather the way to the true joy... What calls our attention is that such joy and blessing can happen under the most adverse circumstances such as the poor and hungry, those that are sad or mistreated, etc. Why? Because the true joy and happiness can only be found in Him but many look for them away from God. What they may find is an “apparent happiness”, a “mask” of the real happiness. It may be confused by noise and other things but it will never be the true Christian joy. Surprisingly, Christian joy can and does coexist with pain and suffering. In the midst of trouble and suffering, I can find joy because I know that my life is in the hands of God if I open my heart to Him. Neither sicknesses or any other evil doing from the world can undermine our weaknesses if we are open to the mysteries of God that call us to be blessed, joyful and happy in the Lord.
- The second section has to do with a different perspective from the previous one: the rich and self content who do not think of their bothers and sisters and fail to share their gifts; those who have much to eat and do not share with the hungry, those who “laugh” and do not cry with those who suffer. To all these He announces many troubles due to their behavior by failing to open themselves to God and their brothers. These people will not be able to live the authentic joy but rather will live the eternal darkness of a life without God.

To keep in mind: The “beatitudes” are a literary form that is found particularly in the genre of the Holy Scripture. It is characterized by the use of the Greek verb “*makarioi*” which can translate into blessed, happy, and joyful. Here it aggregates God as the source of it.

Other biblical references to explore: Mt 5: 1-12; Psalm 1: 1; Eccl 14: 1-2; Jn 20: 29.

To continue in depth these topics refer to the Study Bible “Contemporary English Version” under the term: Beatitudes.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WORD

- Where does Jesus go to pray and for how long?
- What does He do the next day?
- Where do Jesus and the Apostles go?



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- Who are in the plains and where did they come from?
- Why are the poor, the suffering and sad blessed?
- Why does He bless the ones that are insulted and persecuted for following the Lord? Why should they “jump in joy?”
- What did the people do before to the prophets?
- Why will the rich and satisfied be troubled?
- What will happen to those laughing and satisfied today?

2 - MEDITATION

What does the text tell me?

Questions to meditate

- What does this commit me to do?
- Do I “go to my mountain” to pray? Do I pray for a long time?
- Do I seek to be “poor” in evangelical terms?
- When spiritually hungry, do I open my heart to the Lord?
- Do I seek Him in all kinds of difficulties I may face?
- Am I self content and satisfied?
- Do I please the wrongdoers to benefit from their acts?
- Do I consider myself a false or a true “prophet?”
- How do I react with the false prophets that exist in today’s world?

3 - PRAYER

What do I (we) tell Him?

This Sunday we will use the text from the First Reading:

⁵I, the LORD, have put a curse
on those who turn from me
and trust in human strength.

⁶They will dry up like a bush
in salty desert soil,



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where nothing can grow.

⁷But I will bless those
who trust me.

⁸They will be like trees
growing beside a stream--
trees with roots that reach
down to the water,
and with leaves
that are always green.

They bear fruit every year
and are never worried
by a lack of rain.

Here is the key to understand the message of the beatitudes: Trust the Lord... What side am I in?

4 - CONTEMPLATION

How do I (we) bring the message inside of me (us)?

Today, let us take the blessing in the beatitudes:

- The Lord blesses me in my poorness...
- The Lord blesses me in my anguish...
- The lord blesses me in my fears...
- The Lord blesses me in my hunger for justice
- The Lord blesses me in my...



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5 - ACTION

What is my (our) commitment?

PERSONAL:

Reflect on the great reward the Lord has for me in Eternal Life. It is from there that I can make sense to my present life and its tribulations...

COMMUNITY:

Seek a specific action to help the poor and sad. Try to make it a weekly ministry, Christ will be waiting in the faces of every poor, hungry or sad that you come in contact with...

