



## The Year of the Word: Reflection 5

"seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own".  
(Matthew 6:33-34).

"Do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them."  
(Matthew 6:25-26).

Both of these quotes come from The Sermon on the Mount. It is the most comprehensive discourse of Jesus reported in the New Testament. It was delivered to a multitude on one of the hills near Capernaum. It extends over three chapters in Matthew's Gospel (Matthew 5, 6, 7). The sermon outlined the kind of life that a true follower of Christ should live if he seeks the kingdom of heaven. It opens with the Beatitudes as guides to those who are to be the "salt of the earth." Jesus explained how the New Law fulfils the Old Law but carries it to a new level where love is the ultimate motive for law. He also taught the Lord's Prayer as the way the disciples should approach the Father. Jesus' "Golden Rule" should guide people in their relations with others and how they live their life on Earth.



The Beatitudes said another way...

"Blessed are those who humbly recognize their need for God, for they will enter into His kingdom."

"Blessed are those who mourn for their sins, for they shall receive forgiveness and life eternal."

"Blessed are those who submit to God as Lord, for they will inherit everything He possesses."

"Blessed are those who passionately long for Christ, for He will satisfy their souls."

"Blessed are those who show mercy through forgiveness, kindness, and compassion, for they will receive mercy."

"Blessed are those who have been purified from the inside out, being made clean and holy, for they will see God."

"Blessed are those who have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and bring this same message of reconciliation to others. All who have peace with God are His children."

"Blessed are those daring enough to openly live for Christ and suffer persecution, for they will receive the Kingdom of Heaven."

God speaks to us in the Scriptures; and Jesus makes promises that we can rely on. If we in trust of God, He has a way of sorting things out that could not always have been foreseen. We are all connected in one way or another. So put your faith in God... and see what happens!

How well do you know God?  
Do you listen to His call?  
Are you following His path?  
Have you a vocation?  
Are you brave enough to say "Yes" to Him?

What God wants is that His will be done on this earth by everyone God has called into being. We pray that God's intention in creating all that there is should be carried out: God's plan must become humanity's plan.



### Readings for Reflection from the Gospels

#### The Beautiful Beatitudes



#### "Who do you say I am?" (Matthew 16:13-20)

Helping us stay "connected" has become an imperative in our culture. Smart phones, Facebook, and Twitter give us instant access to friends, family, work, and the world. Many say that we spend less time building and maintaining meaningful face-to-face relationships as a result. The simple fact is that you cannot know someone you don't spend time with. Intimacy develops as a result of close contact with someone over a period of time. Trust is built, confidence grows, and hearts change, becoming endeared to one another.

We connect with another by spending time with them, talking to them and listening to them. We observe them, noticing how they react in different circumstances – what choices they make and how they "tick". And, we celebrate life with them – birthdays, anniversaries, holidays and so forth – those occasions that give meaning to our lives. The very same dynamic is applied to what we do in catechesis.

So, spend some time considering who Christ is for you because you cannot show others how to follow him if you don't know him yourself. The Scriptures root Catechesis in a dynamic relationship with Christ which shapes our faith throughout our lives.

It is impossible to pursue both God and wealth. ...  
God provided one's life and one's body so one should not doubt that he will also provide the necessities of survival.  
In God we should TRUST!

