

The Blessings of Trusting in the Lord

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The reading from the Gospel of Luke for today is another version of the beatitudes we read in the Gospel of Matthew. In both cases there is multitude of people gathered around Jesus, but Luke identifies where the people came from, “All Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon.” In Luke the sermon takes place on a plain while in Matthew it takes place on a mount. In each case, Jesus unfolds a new world order and vision for the new community. In Luke we read, “Jesus came with the Twelve” and in Matthew the disciples are not quantified. In both Gospel stories, the new community is also known as the new Israel, inclusive of all people. In Luke the plain or level ground signifies accessible and inclusive space without any barriers.

Like standing at crossroads, Jesus is inviting people to him and steering them away from human wisdom that cannot be trusted and has no permanence. Jesus does not flatter anyone to follow him. He tells those who wish to follow him up front to make cost benefit analysis, explaining the human cost of believing in him. The invitation is between following the easy and broad d vs. the narrow road, which he says, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). Prophet In the first reading, Prophet Jeremiah warns us the danger of trusting the human wisdom over God saying, “Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings.” The prophet directs us to make the right choice, saying, “Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is in the Lord.” There is no alternative for salvation or to live a life of justice void of God’s blessings.

The suffering we endure for believing in him is not about delayed gratification of “pie in the sky.” Rather, is about living a life guided by justice and righteousness. We are called to enliven the society God entrusted to us, making it more palatable and enjoyable to live in. We have to live by example, engaging our communities witnessing God’s presence, who pitched his tend among us. Trusting the Lord like in the Responsorial Psalm, we will bear fruit “like a tree planted near running water.” Let us heed to the call of Prophet Micah, “Oly to do the right and to love goodness and walk humbly with your God” (6:8). Yet we are not dismissing the promise of eternal life God promised us, Christ as the first fruits of resurrection from the dead. Do believe and trust in this promise or put our values in a materialistic culture, whose consumer appetite is insatiable? We are called to be

counterculture. True, this might attract temporary suffering, but the blessing of the Lord outweighs it.