

Reflection Lent Luke 6.17-26

Today's Gospel presents a captivating scene where Jesus descends from a mountain to a level place and addresses a large crowd of his disciples and a multitude of people from all over Judea, Jerusalem, and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon. He has only just selected his Twelve Apostles. He already has a large following of disciples from whom Luke tells us he selects the twelve in vv. 12-16.

This moment is significant as it marks the delivery of a portion of Jesus' teachings that have come to be known as the Beatitudes and the corresponding Woes. These teachings are profound, offering insights into the values and priorities of the Kingdom of God. They turn the world upside down. The poor and deprived shall be blessed and the rich powerful will go hungry. The laughing will mourn and weep.

There is a tendency to say that the poor, the hungry, the deprived and marginalised are blessed by their condition. That is not the case. What Jesus is saying is that bless them and bring them out of that condition. And the Woes are about people who think they are blessed by their worldly riches and good fortune, but in fact they are spiritually poor and have already had their good fortune because they will not inherit the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus' teaching is radical and overturns worldly conventional thought from the word go.

We see His Mother's words from the Magnificat mirrored in these Beatitudes and Woes. They also resound with the words of Jeremiah who says that those who trust in the world are cursed and those who trust in the Lord are blessed.

Phil Baker



NEXT SUNDAY 23.02.2025 2nd Sunday before Lent
10.30am in the Hall

READINGS: OT Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15 to end
NT Revelation 4
GOSPEL Luke 8: 22-25



CONTACT US

Fr David Nixon 01392 667192. Day off: Mondays
rev.dave@virgin.net

Revd Sarah Cumming Assistant Priest [on secondment
at St Davids]

Revd Mike Clark Associate Priest
mike.clark@exeter.anglican.org

Phil Baker, Licensed Lay Minister 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Church Warden 01392 848674
07536459096 ian.totterdell@cantab.net

Liz Pioneer Community Worker
pioneerstthomas@gmail.com

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter

Website: www.stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

X (formerly Twitter): @sttexeter

Office Tel: 01392 437486 Messages at any time.



St Thomas, Exeter

16th February 2025

Third Sunday before Lent

10.30am in the Hall

Today

Sung Eucharist

Hymn Numbers

351 Now is eternal life

63 Blest are the pure in heart

15 All my hope in God is founded

Tuesday 18th February

7.30pm House Group at Helen' house to
study Polycarp & Valentine

Wednesday 19th February

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 20th February

9.30-11am No St Thomas Tots (half term)

10.30-12noon Knit & Natter. 19 Maple Rd
Details from Jenny. 01392 498725

Friday 21st February

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting



Collect

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Jeremiah 17: 5-10

Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

1 Corinthians 15: 12-20

If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then

those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Luke 6: 17-26

Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 'Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. 'Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. 'But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 'Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. 'Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. 'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Post Communion

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

NOTICES

House Group Lent Studies We have space for anyone interested in joining us for a Bible study course "Easter—Hope for tomorrow" on every Tuesday during Lent. Please see Ian, Helen or Mic for further details.

Ash Wednesday 5th March. Advance Notice so you have plenty of time to think about what we are all doing or not doing for Lent. There is likely to be a Eucharist with Ashing in the morning and a Zoom service with self-Ashing in the evening. You have been warned!

World Day of Prayer Friday, 7th March. St Stephen's Church at 11am. Refreshments will be served at 10.30am. The theme this year is "I made you wonderful" based on Psalm 139:14. Learn about the Cook Islands their culture and history.

The picture relates to Phil's reflection



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