

Homily 2022.02.13 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

NOTES

Luke's version of the Beatitudes, more famous version is in Matthew (chapter 5)

Clearly they are accounts of the same thing, same event, same teaching yet they are substantially different.

To notice:

Luke is often gentler in tone, eg in the Passion, but on this occasion he's harder in tone than Matthew, This is no soft focus Robert Powell.

Instead of the familiar list of blessings or beatitudes we have -

4 Benedictions and 4 Maledictions, in clear pairs:

Poor/Rich, Hungry/Full, Weep/Laugh, Condemned/Accepted.

(cf. 2 Worlds as outlined by Jeremiah in 1R. Where do we place our trust: in God or in the World?)

Matthew is in the third person: Happy are **those**...

Luke is in the second person: Happy are **you**... Much more direct... Jesus fixes his eyes on the disciples.

Real World matters: poverty, hunger, grief. Theme for Luke = social justice, care of the poor and marginalised.

Luke is writing for a non Jewish audience, hence 'their ancestors' rather than 'our ancestors' and the stripping away of excess religiosity from the beatitudes.

A moment to reflect on what we receive in the gospels: not always the absolute historic words of Jesus, but the authentic word of the Christ of faith shines through: calling us to care for the poor and marginalised while placing our trust in God alone.

Finally: in Matthew it's the sermon on the mount, in Luke it's the sermon on the plain, and the sermon will continue over the next two Sundays.