

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Beatitudes—Being Godly Tenth Week in Ordinary Time Monday, June 9, 2014
8:15 AM 1 Kgs 17:1-5; **Mt 5:1-12** (We can reflect in our qualities something of God, keeping in mind on a human scale.)

The proper context to think about these beatitudes is with the question: What is it that people want? **What do people want out of life?** Sadly, they often don't think about this in so many words. **They actually are always wanting something, but they don't really think about it.** For example, there might be something wrong with their car, so well they want a new car. They may even need a new car, or they may not, but they want a new car. The old one is rusted. The old one has something wrong with its steering or the transmission, so let's get a new one. They might want a new house. Why? Well, the present one is too small or too big, or it's not in the right place; the yard is too small, or it's too big, and so on. **So people are always trying to readjust the circumstances of their lives, the accouterments of their lives, the things they have.**

But **Jesus** doesn't address any of those things, for better or for worse. Jesus is not a St. Francis who says, well, just live without. Jesus never said that. He just doesn't care one way or the other about what most people care about. The things people fill their life with he is indifferent to. But what he cares about is: **What kind of person are you? And to him that's what should be the object of desire: to be a kind of person that reflects God, who is like God.**

So now he is going to describe what God is like. He uses, of course, human terms; what else are we going to do? We are after all made in the image and likeness of God, and, therefore, **we can reflect in our qualities something of God, keeping in mind on a human scale.** So we think about all these **different beatitudes.** They are always a door opening to something that perhaps and most **probably we never thought about.**

But it will change totally the way we take life if we start to realize what it means to be “poor in spirit.” This is not talking about poverty, St. Francis style—not really. It’s talking about something else: **an attitude toward life where the kingdom of heaven is really important.** And that basically frames the whole thing. **It’s about taking God’s new creation, God’s plan for this world, seriously and starting with oneself.**

“Blessed are the pure of heart.” Well now, God is pure of heart. And **if we are pure of heart, we will see God.** We will see God **in each other.** We will see God **in the world.** We will see God **everywhere because that’s where God is.** **What gets in our way? Impurity of heart, which means egoism, self-centeredness.** If that gets in our way, then we can’t see.

So the **beatitudes** are a way of being, and they are **a way of being godly.** They are a way of being **blessed.** They are a way of being **happy.** And God wants nothing more for us than that.