

# Read

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Luke 6:17, 20-26



## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 16, 2024

LECTIONARY #78C  
Jeremiah 17:5-8  
Psalm 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6  
1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20  
Luke 6:17, 20-26



### REFLECTION

The word "beatitude" comes from that Latin word *beatitudo*, which in the Bible is translated as "blessed." Another definition of the word is "supreme happiness." When Jesus lays out the Beatitudes, he is showing the path to the highest levels of happiness.

Do the things we find happiness and hope in match Jesus' framework for living a blessed life? Are we too caught up in the world and the latest and greatest, whether it is celeb news, music, tech, or gossip? The truth is, the world can never truly satisfy our hearts the way God can. Jesus shows us the folly of those who base their happiness in the values of the world. The values of the world are like a sugar rush; it feels good in the moment, but a crash will follow. God's kingdom can set our hearts on the path of true peace and satisfaction. While following God's road map may feel lonely or unrewarding at times, it is leading to something real and worthwhile. Stay on the blessed course and find true happiness along the way!

### ACTION

Think about what makes you happy in your life. Categorize them into like groups. Can you spot any trends? How many of these things are material objects or possessions? How many of them are based on relationships? How many of them are rooted in things that endure? How many of these things challenge you and take you outside of yourself? As you reflect on your values and happiness, ask God to help conform your will to his own so that you may experience true happiness in him.



Happiness in this world can mean different things in different situations. Check out this short video on four types of happiness. [https://youtu.be/\\_SYzU2kTOIA](https://youtu.be/_SYzU2kTOIA)

### QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ What is one Beatitude that you feel you are already strong in? How so?
- ❖ What is one Beatitude that you want to grow in? Why?



February 16, 2025

# SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## LECTIONARY #78C

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6

1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Luke 6:17, 20-26

## Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

### Leader's Context

Today's gospel reading is the beginning of what is called the "Sermon on the Plain." In Matthew's Gospel, there is a parallel passage known as the "Sermon on the Mount." In both of these readings, Jesus gives statements of blessings known as the Beatitudes. When Jesus shared these with his disciples, it must have sounded odd to them. For it is the poor, the hungry, the weeping, and the outcast who are blessed. The kingdom of God belongs to those who society rejects and the forgotten members of the community. The teens are encouraged to use the Beatitudes as a framework for living as Jesus wants them to so that they might be drawn closer to their eternal life in the kingdom of heaven. We must prioritize Christ over the world.

**FOCUS:** The Beatitudes guide us to eternal life.

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

On February 22, we celebrate the feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle. On this day, we commemorate Jesus choosing Peter to lead the church. Peter is recognized as the "chair," or head, of the Catholic Church, an office that has been passed down through the centuries through the successors of Peter, the popes. The chair of St. Peter symbolizes the teaching authority of Peter and his successors who have led the Church since Jesus' death and resurrection. On this day, we celebrate the faith of our

Church and pray for the pope who guides us and teaches us.

### Church Teaching Connection

"In proclaiming the Beatitudes, Jesus asks us to follow him and to travel with him along the path of love, the path that alone leads to eternal life. It is not an easy journey, yet the Lord promises us his grace and he never abandons us. . . . But if we open the door to Jesus and allow him to be part of our lives, if we share our joys and sorrows with him, then we will experience the peace and joy that only God, who is infinite love, can give" (Pope Francis, Message for World Youth Day, January 21, 2014).

## Hear the Word

Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

### Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

Luke 6:17, 20-26

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stood on a stretch of level ground with a great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon. And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: / "Blessed are you who are poor, / for the kingdom of God is yours. / Blessed are you who are now hungry, / for you will be satisfied. / Blessed are you who are now weeping, / for you will laugh. /

Blessed are you when people hate you, / and when they exclude and insult you, / and denounce your name as evil / on account of the Son of Man. / Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way. / But woe to you who are rich, / for you have received your consolation. / Woe to you who are filled now, / for you will be hungry. / Woe to you who laugh now, / for you will grieve and weep. / Woe to you when all speak well of you, / for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way." /

**Reader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Everyone may be seated.*

## Reflect on the Word

*When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:*

The blessings mentioned in today's reading are referred to as the Beatitudes. They come from the beginning of what is known as Jesus' "Sermon on the Plain" in Luke's Gospel. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus also proclaims a set of Beatitudes in his "Sermon on the Mount." However, while Matthew frames the Beatitudes in more spiritual terms, like being "poor in spirit," Luke frames the Beatitudes in social and economic terms, like contrasting those who are poor with those who are rich. Luke presents Jesus' authority as God-with-us, as one among us. The Beatitudes we hear today seem to speak directly to the daily struggles of a person's circumstances. Jesus knows our material concerns and wants to reassure us that God will take care of us in his kingdom. Jesus is close to us and personally speaks to us and invites us into a relationship with him.

► **Why might Luke want us to see Jesus as one of us? How does seeing Jesus as part of humanity help us to accept and understand his teachings?**

As we listen to these blessings and woes, it shakes our understanding of what we would normally consider a blessing. We hear from Jesus that those who are blessed are poor, hungry, weeping, and persecuted. And those who will experience woe are rich, full, laughing, and well-liked. We don't normally consider ourselves to be "blessed" when we have no money to buy things. With these blessings and woes, Jesus is trying to help us see the difference between our life and faith and the life the world offers.

Jesus' message in these Beatitudes is that our true blessings and true happiness come from God. Riches, food, possessions, and reputation are not things that will bring us to eternal life. These material things can become distractions and roadblocks that prevent us from finding God, who is the source of all blessings. When we reject those material things that claim too much of our attention and only make us temporarily happy and instead turn toward God as the source of all goodness and riches, we are indeed blessed. This is not to say that we can't be rich or happy or well-fed or well-respected. There are many people who are, but they are also faithful followers of Christ. Instead, it is a matter of priority, of what we put first in our lives and the intention behind our actions. We must ask ourselves, do those material things lead us to Christ or to the world?

► **What things have you spent money, time, or effort on that no longer bring you happiness?**

► **What are things that you spend time on that continually bring you joy?**

The Beatitudes are a framework or model of Christian living. They tell us to stop striving for things that might make us first in this world and instead choose things that lead us to put Christ first in our hearts and in our lives. They point us to the source of our true happiness. We should live as Christ did, committing ourselves to serving and living among the poor, lonely, marginalized, and oppressed. When we do these things, we are promised true happiness in eternal life.

## Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the “Church Teaching Connection” on page 140.

**Jesus desired that we be close to him.**

**Our true blessings come from God alone.**

**The Beatitudes guide us on the way to eternal happiness.**

## Act on the Word

### Examen Our Blessings

For this activity, you will need a whiteboard, paper or journals, writing utensils, Bibles, and copies of the steps of the Examen (this website provides several resources on how to pray this prayer: <https://ltp.org/s/pray-examen>).

As a large group, reread the Beatitudes that are found in Luke 6:20–26. Then read the Beatitudes that are in Matthew 5:1–12. On the board, make two lists of the blessings (and woes) in each of the readings. Have the young people discuss what each one means in the context of their own lives. For instance, “blessed are the persecuted” might refer to those teens who are made fun of or are outcasts in school.

When the lists are finished, talk with the teens about the Examen. It is a prayer practice that helps us to reflect on the events of our day and see where God has been in those events. It is meant to be done daily and helps us to be attentive to how God has been working in our lives and to discern where we could refocus on God’s presence during our day. Share with the teens that the discussion of blessings

and woes can also help them discern where God is working in their lives and where they could prayerfully ask God for help.

Have each teen find a quiet place with their journals and pass out copies of the steps for the Examen. Give them time to go through the steps of the Examen on their own. Ask them to write down each step in their journal, including their prayers. You can play quiet music during this time to help them enter more deeply into their prayer.

When the young people are done, remind them that the Examen is a prayer that they can do on their own every day to help them refocus their day according to God’s will. Forming this habit of prayer will help them follow the path of Christ.

### Closing Prayer

Loving God,  
we crave for your hand  
to lead us to our heavenly home.  
May we know that our present life  
is only a glimpse  
of the beautiful reality that awaits us  
in your heavenly kingdom.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday’s Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at [www.ltp.org/lwgr](http://www.ltp.org/lwgr). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.