

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul Greater Toronto Central Council

Spiritual Readings for the month of October 2020 - Prepared by Msgr. Bianco

Reading One

The Beatitudes: A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew, C. 5, vs. 1-11:

1. "When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.
2. Then he began to speak and taught them, saying:
3. 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
5. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
6. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
7. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
8. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
10. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they treated the prophets who were before you.' "

The Gospel of the Lord.

Read and be silent, three minutes.

Reading Two

In his book "Simply Jesus" Bishop Wright writes, p.218:

"Jesus' sermon on the mount opens with the Beatitudes which are normally read either as a special form of 'Christian ethic' (this is how you are to behave if you want to be really special people) or as the rules you must keep in order to 'go to heaven when you die'.

This latter view has been reinforced by the standard misreading of the first Beatitude. 'Blessings on the poor in spirit! The kingdom of heaven is yours ' doesn't mean 'You will go to heaven when you die'. It means you'll be one of those through whom God's kingdom, heaven's rule, begins to appear on earth as in heaven...

The Beatitudes are about the way in which Jesus wants to rule the world.

He wants to do it through this sort of people.- people, actually, just like himself...

When God wants to change the world he doesn't send in the tanks. He sends in the meek, the mourners, those who are hungry and thirsty for God's justice, the peacemakers and so on".

Read and be silent, three minutes.

Discuss and share for seven minutes these questions or other observations, feelings, experiences, you may have.

1. Do you think Bishop Wright is correct, half correct or misreading Jesus words?
2. How do we interpret the Beatitudes and apply them as Vincentians?

Concluding prayer:

Jesus you are the fullness of what it means to be a mature person. The Beatitudes are who you are and who we want to be. May your Holy Spirit clothe us in the garment of the Beatitudes, Amen

Total time: approximately 15 minutes.

A note to all.

Many of you have suggested there is too much material in what I send you each month. If so, just use half the material I send, for example either the first or second reading above for October.

Others have suggested there is little variety and you want more choice in the monthly material. If so, for October, I suggest you pick just one or two Beatitudes for a Conference meeting and then one or two for Particular Council meetings, if you attend both groups in October.

I hope you would agree that Jesus' words of the Beatitudes are so filled with wisdom that two different meetings would not exhaust what He has to say to us?

Please send your feedback via Anar.

P.S. For those who so wish, memorize for October for your homework one, two or all of the eight Beatitudes, vs 3 to 10, Matt. 5 (above)