

Ordinary Time Reflection
God's Kingdom
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Scripture: Matthew 5: 1-12 (NRSV)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy." "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." "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 persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Reflection:

Ordinary Time often gets overlooked in the Church calendar, because its just that, ordinary, business as usual. But Ordinary Time is our opportunity to shine forth the Kingdom of God in our every day actions and places we find ourselves. It is a time to let God's time intersect our busy schedules and live into what we just celebrated the liturgical seasons and days before.

A wonderful text to reflect on living into during ordinary time is found in Matthew's rendition of the Beatitudes. Ordinary Time is the longest liturgical season of the year, giving us more time to really ponder and act on what Jesus is calling his disciples to do and be in this particular teaching.

We live in a day and age that is craving for the Church to be different, to embrace the Kingdom of God and bring it into the Kingdom of the World unapologetically. However, sometimes the Church has embraced moral stances more than the path of the Beatitudes. What would it look like to try to learn and live into the Beatitudes with your entire being over the coming weeks, claiming this Ordinary Time to be anything but ordinary?

Reflection Questions:

- How do you live out your faith in the everyday? How is this living representative of Jesus' teaching in the Beatitudes?

- What do you struggle with most in the Beatitudes? Why?
- Are the Beatitudes spiritual truths about what to think or are they spiritual practices about how we are to live in this world?
- How do we even start following Jesus' teachings in Matthew 5?
- In what ways do the Beatitudes offer hope and renewal?

Resource:

Howard, Anne Sutherland. *Claiming the Beatitudes: Nine Stories from a New Generation*. Herndon: The Alban Institute, 2009.