



## *Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Reflection* *October 18, 2020*

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**Sunday Reflection Quote:** *“These are the few ways we can practice humility: To speak as little as possible of one’s self. To mind one’s own business. Not to want to manage other people’s affairs. To avoid curiosity. To accept contradictions and correction cheerfully. To pass over the mistakes of others. To accept insults and injuries. To accept being slighted, forgotten and disliked. To be kind and gentle even under provocation. Never to stand on one’s dignity. To choose always the hardest.”* - Mother Teresa

**Scripture:** [Matt 5:3] “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Over the next several weeks in the *RLC Sunday Blasts* we will explore how the beautiful poetry of the Beatitudes (see Matt 5:1-12) provides practical guidance for our daily lives.

### ***To Be Poor in Spirit***

At the beginning of Matthew we read that Jesus spoke the words of the Beatitudes to his disciples, not to the entire gathered crowd. In the Gospels there are many examples when Jesus called the disciples aside to explain his teaching to them. What was Jesus trying to get the disciples to understand about being “poor in spirit”?

If someone is proud of his or her education, wealth, good looks, or social position, or has preconceived ideas about what a spiritual life is, that person may be wealthy in the secular sense, but “poor in spirit” otherwise. The kingdom of heaven is not learning, wealth, good looks, or social position. And if we think it is, we have not humbled ourselves.

Jesus repeatedly told his disciples to “leave everything behind and follow me.” Pretty stark words to swallow. But see the intent behind them? Worldly things and following the “ways of the world” will not lead us to the kingdom of heaven.

There’s a saying that goes: “When the student is ready, the teacher appears.” Like the disciples we may not be in the frame of mind to receive the teachings of Jesus. The disciples often didn’t catch on quickly, but Jesus persisted knowing they were becoming ready, and so we should continue being ready through practicing humility. Mother Teresa’s good advice for us mere mortals is good advice indeed!

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**Special prayers this week:** We pray for all of our friends and families near and dear to us; for those facing ill-health and financial hardship during the pandemic; for those in danger due to wildfires in the West. We pray for the safety of all first responders. We offer special prayers for those who would lead us in government: may they always be humble. May we accept with humility the peace which passes all understanding be with us all this day and forever. Amen – Vance