



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Reflection November 8, 2020

Sunday Reflection Quote:

“The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.” — Mahatma Gandhi

Scripture From the Beatitudes, Matt 5:6: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.”

Where is this leading?

A few words about mercy and being merciful to start. Notice how this “blessing” tells us if we behave a certain way, others (and presumably God) will behave that way towards us. This “blessing” like several before it follows that pattern: if we act one way, others will act accordingly back...as will God.

To be merciful is one of the conditions necessary before we can receive the truth of God. Envy jealousy, hatred – these are some of the weaknesses inborn in us. We cannot be merciful if we hold those things in our hearts. We certainly cannot entertain forgiveness of others in any form, and we cannot even think of the Lord or love Him until these feelings have abated.

If we want to find God, pursue our hunger and thirst for righteousness, we have to become God-like in mercy. The **righteousness** in Matthew 5:6 is almost synonymous with salvation: deliverance from evil and union with God. This righteousness, therefore, is not what we ordinarily think of as moral virtues or good qualities, not relative good as opposed to evil or relative virtue as opposed to vice, but absolute righteousness, absolute goodness.

The hunger and thirst after the righteousness of which Christ speaks is a hunger and thirst after God himself. I think that’s why I really like The Message rendering of Matt:6: “You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat. “ And that meal give us our strength to be merciful.

Special prayers this week: continued prayers for Randy’s healing from his injury; Wayne’s quick recovery from surgery; for the soul of John S. whose funeral was this Saturday and comfort for his wife and daughter; an increased focus on controlling the spread of the pandemic and comfort for those suffering from its effects, prayers for the souls who have died from it and comfort for their families; pray for an end to the wildfires in the West; a peaceful transition of power in the United States following the election. Hear our prayers O Lord!