

## WSC REFLECTION GUIDE

<b>Readings:</b> Jeremiah 17:5-8 Psalm 1:1-4, 6 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20 Luke 6:17, 20-26	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time February 14, 2010
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<b>Word:</b>	<b>Disciples of Christ obey His call to spread the Good News of salvation.</b>
<b>Theme:</b>	<b>We spread the Good News of salvation when people see the character of Jesus in us. [Holiness]</b>
<b>Promise:</b>	<b><i>“Blessed is the one who trust in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord.”</i> (Jer 17:7-8)</b>

### Reflection:

In the first reading (Jer. 17:5-8), we are reminded by the prophet Jeremiah to always rely on God’s wisdom. In the second reading (1 Cor 15:12, 16-20), St. Paul clarifies the issue of Christ’s resurrection and ours, “If the dead are not raised, then Christ is not raised, and if Christ was not raised, your faith is worthless... But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the fruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

There is indeed resurrection in Christ Jesus in this life and in the next. Just recently, this writer had personal experience of this. The week before Christmas, I was terminated from work, my wages and bonuses withheld. I was despondent and distraught, and planned to take action against the company I had helped build. Instead, I went to the adoration chapel and had a one-on-one with God. I asked and complained to God, why of all the seasons of the year, did this happen to me at this particular time? Imagine being penniless at Christmastime. Resentment and bitterness filled my heart. However, God comforted me and in my heart I heard him say, “Do not rely on your strength, trust and obey me instead, you will definitely grow from this experience, for my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor my ways your ways. Besides, Christmas is not about you, Christmas is about me giving you an Enabler. You give yourself to Me as a present.” With these words of comfort, revelation and wisdom of God, I spent a happy Christmas with my family, friends and community. As the New Year began, to my surprise, God indeed blessed and gave me the opportunity to be part owner of a new and better company.

In his letter to the Corinthians, St Paul points out that if we do not believe that Jesus was sent by God to bring us back to Him and His gift of everlasting life, then we are indeed wrong in our faith. But by our own life experiences, we have living proof that when God closes the front door, He opens the back door, or at the very least, a window of His grace, our escape hatch of love. If we look back we can

recall many instances in our lives when misfortunes are transformed into blessings. God was, and continues to be there for us to give us a fresh break and a new life because He loves us. But if you say, that there is no resurrection in Christ Jesus, then you are not only a liar, but you are pathetic, living a pointless, meaningless existence with no future resurrection to look forward to. God does indeed allow us to experience Jesus' resurrection in our daily life, so that when we finally meet Him, our true resurrection will be realized.

In the Sermon on the Plains according to St. Luke, commonly known as the Beatitudes, Jesus addresses himself exclusively to the disciples, because He wanted them to continually divest themselves of their self-reliance and to only obey, trust and depend upon Him. It is not that Jesus doubted their obedience; remember that when he summoned them, each of them dropped everything to follow him. But because Jesus too was a man, though God, He knew and could empathize with His disciples weaknesses. He understood human nature, and how weak and vulnerable man can be when faced with discouragement, or beset by trials and tribulations. He saw fit to constantly remind his disciples that they were merely passing through life here on earth; and that there is a better life hereafter, where true riches and happiness await those whose hearts cling to Him and not to the material wealth, honor and glory offered by this world. The central message of the Beatitudes is detachment from the false attractions of this world and to seek only the riches found in Christ. In and of itself, it is not wrong to be rich or aspire for wealth, for to be destitute is also not of Christ. But every temporal good can become evil if it separates our hearts from God. But we cannot serve God and Mammon. It is not possible be governed and enslaved by "money" and power, and still put God first in our lives. To be spiritually poor, means, to detach from everything else but Christ, to welcome suffering and accept misfortunes or persecutions as the price we pay for following Christ, who is God's Word, and our life. If we hunger after Him, His Word will feed us and sustain us.

On the other hand, these temporal "evils" mentioned in the Gospel can have a salvific meaning of beatitude, if they lead our hearts to God. Examples would be poverty, deprivation, sufferings and persecutions. When our hearts are anchored on Christ's, these trials prepare us for eternal intimacy with Him and a share of the Father's Kingdom, our eternal reward, as promised to us by Jesus Himself. His Words of Life comfort us and together with the Sacraments, strengthen us, and lead us to enter into the blessings prepared for those who remain united and dependent on God.

We, like the early disciples of Christ, share the same calling, a call to perfection in the way of holiness. And the beatitude is the blueprint for holiness. It is only through living them in our lives that our love for God is purified, that we in BLD, can truly say that we are followers of Christ, that we are indeed living Christianity. Happy are we, then, who trust and hope in the Lord, who delight not in the counsel of the wicked, but in the law of the Lord, and who meditate on His law, day and night.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father but through You. Showing us the path to holiness through the beatitudes helps us realize our deepest need for You, who are our strength, our shield, the lifter of our head. Grant us the grace to overcome our inappropriate passions and worldly desires, and help us to seek the way of humble submission to Your will, and the strength to rely on You alone and not on our own power or resources. Increase in us Lord, for it is our desire to trust and hope in You alone. Amen.

**Suggested Personal Reflection Guide:**

What hinders me from fully trusting the Lord? Where am I in my walk with Him? Am I ready to give my all for the love of Christ? Am I willing to give up my "wealth" - money, pride, possession - for the good of others? In what way/s can I truly be a disciple of Christ in my own family, community? What do I resolve to do?

**Next Week's Daily Mass Reading Guide:**

February 15, 2010 (Mon):	Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76; Mk 8:11-13
February 16, 2010 (Tue):	Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21
February 17, 2010 (Wed):	Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 - 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
February 18, 2010 (Thur):	Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25
February 19, 2010 (Fri):	Is 58:1-9; Ps 51:3-6, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
February 20, 2010 (Sat):	Is 58:9-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32

***"Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ. Read your Bible daily!"***