

**No Condition is Permanent. Wednesday in 23rd Week September 9th, 2020.
(1Corinthians 7:25-31, Luke 6:20-26)**

Dear friends, we all like to live happily and see happy events happen in our lives. The world offers us the qualities to be happy but most of such qualities are short term gratification. In Luke's gospel Jesus offers us the "beatitudes" not as sermons on the mountain but as sermons on the plain level ground. Here Jesus turns the values the world offers for happiness upside down and offers happiness that entails suffering, but with lasting joy on earth and in heaven. William Barclay in his Daily Study Bible commentary says, "The challenge of the Beatitudes is this, 'Will you be happy in the world's way, or in Christ's way?'"

Jesus pronounces blessings four times on people with some four qualities, and four times he pronounces woes on people with the wrong qualities. The poor, the hungry, those weeping and those hated will be happy while those who will experience the opposite are the rich, the satisfied, those laughing now and when everybody speak well of you. We are all familiar with the Beatitudes especially the one given by Matthew's gospel. But Luke's version for me is unique because it makes us realise that in life no condition is permanent. As followers of Jesus, we will sometimes go hungry, we will have moments to weep, or we will be hated and insulted but Jesus says these are moments for you to rejoice and be glad because very soon the situation will overturn.

As I was reflecting on the beatitudes, I asked myself, "Which of them touches my life and whether it makes me rejoice?" The one that came to me was, "Woe to you

when everybody speak well of you” Our Lord Jesus went through similar experience of being spoken well of, only to be crucified in the end. Paul tells us in the 1st reading that Christians are free to marry or not, but we must remember that this world is passing. We celebrate the memorial of St. Peter Claver today. He also realised that this world is passing and so shared his bread to slaves with love. Like him let us show favour to the distressed and vulnerable. **Amen.**

By Fr. Emmanuel Subaar