

Eucharistic Homily

Mark 10:13-31

3/11/18

The fact that Jesus welcomed children into His kingdom but turned away a rich young ruler should cause us think very carefully about how God views us, how we view ourselves, and how we view other people.

God's word makes it painfully clear that the man-made divisions and the self-promotion of the sinful flesh have no place in God's kingdom. The weak and lowly are exalted, while the high and mighty are humbled. The first are last, and the last are first. The great ones of the kingdom are servants. Competition, rivalry, and one-upmanship are unthinkable because God's favor cannot be earned or bought but only received as a gift. We have nothing that we haven't received.

The Beatitudes are probably the best summary of these upside-down kingdom values:

- Only those who declare spiritual bankruptcy are eligible to receive the blessings of the kingdom.
- Only those who mourn over their sin will receive God's comfort and forgiveness.
- Only the humble will be entrusted with dominion and authority.
- Only those who come to God hungry will be able to partake of the bounty of His Table.

That is our hope each Lord's Day as we approach God's Table: We come with empty hands to receive God's grace. We come as God's children with nothing to offer, but trusting that our heavenly Father will provide. Thanks be to God, He has provided indeed.

If you've been baptized into Christ and are seeking to live faithfully and obediently for Him, you are welcome to this feast that Christ has prepared for us.

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