

Gospel Eco

An echo ecological reflexion fo the Sunday Gospel



MOVIMIENTO
LAUDATO SI'

para Movimiento Caritas Placeres por el Cielo

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 6, 2022

DELEGACION DE CATEQUESIS DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA



This year's Manos Unidas Campaign (United Hands Campaign) has the motto: "Our indifference condemns them to forgotten."

The campaign aims to "prevent the barrier of indifference and inequality from condemning to forgotten more than a billion impoverished and hungry people to whom we must never turn our backs". Unfortunately, says

Manos Unidas, that "the numbers hide the faces of human beings that we don't have time to look at or keep in mind. We live in a society marked by individualism in which inequality seems normal to us".

I wonder: **Does the poverty of others matter to me? Have I gotten used to seeing people in need around me? Can I say that indifference has reached me?**

Gospel

Lk 6,20-26

And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.

Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man.

Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven.

For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

But woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep.

Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way.



REFLECTION

The discourse of the beatitudes is found in both Matthew and Luke, and although both complement each other, each one has its own approach. Matthew speaks of the "poor in spirit" and recalls the spiritual dispositions of the disciple. While Luke addresses poor communities, and refers to the difficult situations experienced by the excluded. On this Sunday the version of Luke is read.

Luke contextualizes the sermon of the beatitudes not in a place of worship, but in a plain, in the open, where people live, where they suffer. He does not speak of rich and poor, but addresses them. He says happy to the excluded and laments the rich. According to Luke, it is not in wealth that we find God, but by placing ourselves next to the poor.

The option for the poor today carries with it the option for the care of Creation, because «both the common experience of ordinary life and scientific research show that the most serious effects of all environmental aggressions are suffered by the poorest people» (LS 48).

We take some examples from the encyclical Laudato Si: climate warming affects the poor more because it involves a majority of them emigrating, with the consequent "great uncertainty for the future of their lives and their children" (LS 25).

Pollution has effects on health, causing millions of premature deaths, especially among the poorest (cf. LS 20). The availability and quality of water is a serious problem, in the poor it is a factor of suffering and infant mortality (cf. LS 29). The unfair distribution of food brings with it famine, malnutrition and death: «we know that approximately a third of the food produced is wasted, and "the food that is thrown away is as if it were stolen from the table of the poor"» (LS 50).

If "the beatitudes are like a Christian's identity card" (DC 83), it should not be strange that we make an option for the poor and for the care of common natural goods. The beatitudes, in our current context, remind us of the responsibility to "hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" (LS 49).

PRAYER

"God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this land who are so valuable in your eyes. Heal our lives, so that we are protectors of the world and not predators, so that we sow beauty and not pollution and destruction".
(Laudato Si's Prayer)

