



*St. John Bosco Province—Moz  
Lectio Divina— World Feast of Gratitude*

**Introduction: In the first chapters of his Gospel, St. Matthew begins by presenting Jesus and His mission. Later, he narrates the concretization of this mission. With words and gestures, Jesus proposes to the disciples and multitudes the Kingdom of God. Jesus wants to announce and make people experience the life, the good, and the joy that God offers to those who receive Him.**

Regarding the message proclaimed by the prophets in this preaching, Jesus follows a particular path. He begins with the term "blessed", that is, happy... The Beatitudes are the concrete path to the transformation of this world into a world of fraternity, justice, and peace.

**Invocation to the Holy Spirit: WE INOVKE YOUR PRESENCE**

We invoke Your presence, come Lord,  
we invoke Your presence come down upon us.  
Come Comforter give peace and humility.  
Live water of love we open our heart to You.



**Ref. Come Spirit, come Spirit, come upon us!  
Come Spirit, come Spirit, come upon us!  
Come upon us Maranathà, come upon us Spirit!  
Come Spirit, come Spirit, come upon us!  
Come Spirit, come Spirit, come upon us, come upon us.**

We invoke Your presence, come Lord,  
we invoke Your presence come down upon us.  
Come light of hearts, give strength and fidelity.  
Eternal fire of love, we offer this life to You,

***Ref. Come Spirit, come Spirit, come upon us!  
Come Spirit, come Spirit, come upon us!  
Come upon us Maranathà, come upon us Spirit!  
Come Spirit, come Spirit, come upon us!  
Come Spirit, come Spirit, descend upon us, descend upon us.  
Come Spirit, come Spirit, come upon us!  
Come Spirit, come Spirit, come upon us!***

**GUIDE:** With His messianic authority, Jesus promulgates the new evangelical law of the Kingdom for all the members of the new people of God: **Sure path of happiness, despite being new and paradoxical.**

**He declares blessed the poor and the hungry, those who weep and suffer, the merciful who know how to forgive, the righteous and the pure of heart, those who promote peace and exclude violence, those persecuted for their fidelity to God. Jesus pronounced the beatitudes for every man and woman willing to follow His path.**

**All:** We cannot be blessed "if we are not converted, if we are not able to appreciate and live the gifts of God."(Pope Francis, Angelus, 29.01.2017)

**Guide:** These words of Jesus, even if they may seem poetic, go decidedly against what is normally habitual, what is done in society. Despite this, the message of Jesus fascinates us, even though in reality the world leads us towards another lifestyle. The beatitudes are not a light or superficial commitment. On the contrary, we can live them only if the Holy Spirit permeates us with all His strength and frees us from the weakness of selfishness, laziness, and pride. (Cf. Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate)

**All:** "Jesus manifests God's will to lead man to happiness. This message was already present in the prophetic preaching: 'The Lord is close to the poor and oppressed and frees them from those who mistreat them!'" (Pope Francis)

**Guide: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY TO US? (Let us observe the style of Jesus Teacher )**

**READING OF THE TEXT ( Mt 5: 1-12)**

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the mountain and, seated, his disciples approached him.

Taking the word, he taught them, saying:

**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are the afflicted, for they will be comforted.**

**Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice because they will be satisfied.**

**Blessed are the merciful, for they will find mercy.**

**Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.**

**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**

**Blessed are the persecuted for the sake of justice,  
because theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.**

**Blessed are you when they insult you, persecute you and lie, say all kinds of evil against you because of me.**

**Rejoice and exult, for great is your reward in heaven. This is how they persecuted the prophets before you.**

**WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY TO ME, TO YOU, TO US TODAY?**

**I reread the text. I reflect and examine myself to consider if I recognize myself in the beatitudes proclaimed by Jesus.**

**(Brief moment of silence to internalize the Word –  
Instrumental background music)**



**Guide:** Pope Francis in the Apostolic Exhortation "Gaudete et Exsultate" helps us to reflect on the Beatitudes: "My goal is humble: to make the call to holiness resound once again, trying to embody it in the current context, with its risks, challenges, and opportunities, because the Lord has chosen each of us "to be holy and blameless in His presence in love." (cf. Eph 1:4).

**VOICE 1: In the discourse of the beatitudes, Jesus shows us the path of welcoming this Divine gift. Yes, the Beatitudes - happy ...**

**- are nothing but answers to the Love of God that, by receiving the gift of our lives, introduces us into His Kingdom.**

**All: Accepting, remaining, growing, and persevering in the building of this Kingdom in the world: this is the path to be taken towards Holiness.**

**Guide:** At first sight, the attitudes of life proposed by Jesus in His time, have still not been valued. How can the poor, the suffering, the persecuted be happy?

The answer is found in the second part of each of the beatitudes, because they all converge on the same point: **participation in the Kingdom of God.**

***VOICE 2: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven."***

The Gospel invites us to recognize the truth of our heart, to see where we put the securities of our life. This is why Jesus calls the poor happy in spirit; those who have a poor heart, a heart where the Lord can enter with His unceasing newness.

Luke does not speak of poverty 'in spirit', but simply of being "poor" (cf. Lk 6:20), thus inviting us to an austere and essential life. In this way, he calls us to share our life with the most needy, the life that the Apostles lived and which, in the final analysis, is an invitation to configure ourselves to Jesus who "being rich, became poor" (2 Cor 8:9).

**(Cf. Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate, nos. 67,68,70)**

**All: "To be poor in heart : this is Holiness."**

**VOICE 3: "Blessed are those who weep, for they will be comforted"**

How can those who cry be happy? In the meantime, those who in life have never experienced sadness, anguish, and suffering will never know the strength of consolation. On the contrary, happy can be those who have the ability to be moved, to feel in the heart the pain that exists in their own life and that of others. These will be happy, because the tender hand of God the Father will caress and comfort them.

**ALL: Knowing how to cry with others: this is Holiness.**

**Voice 1: "Blessed are the meek, because they will inherit the earth"**

Although it seems impossible, Jesus proposes another style: meekness. This is what He practiced with His disciples, and we contemplate in His entry into Jerusalem. "Behold, the King comes to meet you, meek, riding on a donkey's foal»" (Mt 21:5; cf. Zec 9:9).

Jesus said, "Learn from me that I am meek and humble of heart and you will find rest for your spirit."

Meekness is a way of being that brings us very close to Jesus. (cf. **Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate, n. 71, 72**)

**ALL : To react with humble meekness : this is Holiness.**

**VOICE 2: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, because they will be satisfied."**

"This justice begins to become reality in the life of each one being just in their decisions. Then it manifests itself in the search for justice for the poor and the most vulnerable. It is true that the word justice can be synonymous with faithfulness to the will of God with our whole life, but if we give it a very general meaning, we forget that this is manifested especially in justice for the helpless. "Seek what is right, help the oppressed, do justice to the orphans, defend the widows." (Is 1:17).

( Cf. **Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate no. 79**)

**All: To seek justice with hunger and thirst: this is Holiness.**

***VOICE 3: "Blessed are the merciful, for they will find mercy."***

"Mercy has two aspects: it is giving, helping, serving others, but also forgiving, understanding. Matthew summarizes it in a golden rule: "What you want others to do to you, you also do to them." (7:12). The Catechism reminds us that this law must apply "to all cases", especially when someone "has to deal with situations that revert to the less secure moral judgment and the difficult decision."

**(Cf. Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate n. 80).**

**ALL: To see and act with mercy: this is Holiness.**

***VOICE 1: Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God.***

In the Bible, the heart means our true intentions, what we really seek and desire, beyond our appearances: "man sees appearances, but the Lord sees the heart" (1 Sam 16:7). The Lord speaks to the heart (cf. Hos 2:16) and in the heart desires to fix his law (cf. Jer 31:33). Ultimately, He wants to give us a new heart (cf. Ezek 36:26). **(Cf. Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate, n. 83)**

**ALL: Keep your heart clean of all that stains love: this is holiness.**

***VOICE 2: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."***

"This beatitude makes us think of the numerous situations of wars that persist in time. The peaceful are a source of peace; they build peace and social friendship. To those who are anxious to sow peace, Jesus makes a wonderful promise: "they will be called children of God" (Mt 5:9).

**(Cf. Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate, n. 87-88).**

**ALL: Sowing peace around us: this is Holiness.**

***VOICE 3: Blessed are the persecuted for the sake of justice, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.***

**Jesus** recalls the innumerable people who were and are persecuted for having fought for justice by remaining faithful to God and to others. To live the Gospel, we cannot hope that everything that revolves around us will be favourable to us, because many times the ambitions of power and worldly interests play in us. Jesus tells us that we will encounter happiness when, "lying, they will say all kinds of slander against us, because of Him."  
**(Cf. Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate, nos. 90, 91, 94)**

**ALL: Daily embracing the Gospel journey even when it will give us problems: this is Holiness.**

**Guide:** Pope Francis says that the beatitudes are the GPS of Christian life.

Among all the beatitudes, he chooses one, stating: "I do not say it is the key" of everything, "but it makes us think a lot":

This path traced by Jesus, the Saints strove to follow, aware of their human limitations. In their earthly existence, in fact, they were poor in spirit, suffering for sins, meek, hungry, and thirsting for justice, merciful, pure of heart, peacemakers, persecuted for the sake of justice. And God made them partakers of His own happiness. They foretasted it in this world, and, in that of future, they fully enjoy it. They are now comforted, heirs of the earth, satiated, forgiven, They see God whose children they are. In a word, "the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them" (cf. Mt 5:3,10).

## **PRAYER AND CONTEMPLATION**

### **WHAT DOES THE TEXT MAKE US SAY TO GOD?**

I listen to the Spirit in my heart and let myself be challenged by the Word.



What do I want to say to God right now?  
What is my new gaze based on the Word?  
Let us look at the world and life with God's eyes. Let us eliminate  
from our way of thinking and acting what does not come from God,  
what does not conform to the beatitudes, our GPS, as Pope Francis  
told us.

**Final Song: Bem-Aventurados Os Misericordiosos**  
**JMJ Cracóvia 2016**

Levantarei meu olhar aos montes  
De onde o auxílio virá  
Deus é a força de quem tem fé  
Misericórdia ele é

Quando erramos, ele é por nós  
Mostra-nos o colo do pai  
Com o seu sangue libertador  
Livra do mal e da dor



***Bem-aventurados os misericordiosos***  
***Porque eles alcançarão misericórdia***  
***Bem-aventurados os misericordiosos***  
***Porque eles alcançarão misericórdia***

Sem seu perdão quando eu cair  
Quem poderá me levantar?  
Se Deus perdoa, quem somos nós  
Para não perdoar?

***Bem-aventurados os misericordiosos***  
***Porque eles alcançarão misericórdia***  
***Bem-aventurados os misericordiosos***  
***Porque eles alcançarão misericórdia***

O sangue de Cristo nos resgatou  
Ele ressuscitou  
Grite pro mundo inteiro ouvir  
Jesus Cristo é o senhor

***Bem-aventurados os misericordiosos***

*Porque eles alcançarão misericórdia  
Bem-aventurados os misericordiosos  
Porque eles alcançarão misericórdia*

Deixa o teu medo e tem fé  
Um novo tempo virá  
Cristo está vivo, vivo entre nós  
E um dia ele voltará

*Bem-aventurados os  
misericordiosos  
Porque eles alcançarão  
misericórdia  
Bem-aventurados os  
misericordiosos  
Porque eles alcançarão misericórdia*



### Italian

Sei sceso dalla tua immensità  
in nostro aiuto.  
Misericordia scorre da te  
sopra tutti noi.

Persi in un mondo d'oscurità  
lì Tu ci trovi.  
Nelle tue braccia ci stringi e poi  
dai la vita per noi.

*Beato è il cuore che perdona!  
Misericordia riceverà da Dio in cielo!*

Solo il perdono riporterà  
pace nel mondo.  
Solo il perdono ci svelerà  
come figli tuoi.

***Beato è il cuore che perdona!  
Misericordia riceverà da Dio in cielo!***

Col sangue in croce hai pagato Tu  
le nostre povertà.  
Se noi ci amiamo e restiamo in te  
il mondo crederà!

***Beato è il cuore che perdona!  
Misericordia riceverà da Dio in cielo!***

Le nostre angosce ed ansietà  
gettiamo ogni attimo in te.  
Amore che non abbandona mai,  
vivi in mezzo a noi!

***Beato è il cuore che perdona!  
Misericordia riceverà da Dio in cielo!***



