

Annunciation Parish - Scripture Study 10/27/20

—Greeting and Opening Prayer

Any thoughts or questions from scripture passages you have read?

- Other faith questions?

READINGS:

RV 7:2-4, 9-14

PS 24:1BC-2, 3-4AB, 5-6 (Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face)

1 JN 3:1-3

MT 5:1-12A

GOSPEL:

- Jesus first goes up to a higher place, sits down and begins to teach.
 - What does the going up signify? What about the sitting posture?
- The beautiful beatitudes. Each is a statement of blessedness
 - Some are things not usually thought a blessing: poor in spirit, mourning, meek, persecuted for the sake of righteousness.
 - Others are positive attributes that we might think bring a blessing: hunger and thirst for righteousness, merciful, clean of heart, peacemakers
 - The final seems like the one before it, but is different - how?
 - it also brings a different result.
- Why are the more negative things a blessing? or Why do they bring a blessing?
 - In the negative ones, what is lacking is being supplied. Rewards for the positive ones. Why rewards? Should we do for reward, or another reason, or both?
- How is a reward in heaven great or not great? Isn't it always great? Are there different levels of heavenly reward?

FIRST READING:

- Not Old Testament this time - Book of Revelation
- No harm is to come to those marked by God. What could the mark be?
- The vision of heaven contains (1) the great multitude from every, race, people, and tongue, (2) The Angels, (3) The four living creatures.
 - 1. The saints - notice that there is not a restriction in terms of locality, or nationality, or race
 - 2. The Angels - many of these "around the throne" - different choirs at different positions
 - 3. The four living creatures - what are these?
- What do the (a) white robes and the (b) palm branches being held by the saints signify?
- From where does salvation come?

SECOND READING:

- The fact that we can be called children of God is something bestowed upon us by the love of the Father. The world does not know him - but we should.
- What we shall be has not yet been revealed - what is that?
- Everyone with this hope makes himself pure ... how? What does purity mean here?

—Closing Prayer