

## **MONDAY Week 10B**

First Reading: 1 Kgs 17: 1-6;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 121: 1 bc-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8;

Gospel Reading: Mt 5: 1-12.

**THEME:** Blessed are the Peacemakers

Many of the prophets including Elijah suffered greatly on account of their righteousness. But they were rewarded. Jesus began his teaching with a powerful message about a "way of happiness" that transcends every difficulty, frustration, and trouble. Jesus addressed the issue of where true happiness can be found. He outlined the *beatitudes*, literally meaning *happiness* or *blessedness*.

Jesus's way of happiness requires a conversion of heart and mindset that come about through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

+Poverty of spirit leads to joy in possessing God alone as the greatest treasure.

+Hunger of the spirit seeks nourishment and strength in God's word and Spirit.

+Sorrow and mourning over wasted life and sin lead to joyful freedom from the burden of guilt and oppression.

+One who is poor in spirit is not greedy.

+One who weeps is not proud but is submissive and tranquil; One who mourns is humble.

+One who is just does not deny what they know is given jointly to all.

+One who is merciful gives away their own goods.

+One who bestows their own goods does not seek another's, nor do they contrive a trap for their neighbor.

Where virtue abounds, the reward too abounds. Elijah lived these Beatitudes. His reward was that he was carried in a whirlwind into heaven. It is helpful to question how a person can possibly find happiness in poverty, hunger, mourning, and persecution. If we want to be filled with the joy and happiness of heaven, then Christ invites us to empty ourselves of all that can shut God out of our hearts. Happiness is an inside job.

By Fr. Sev Kupo, Associate Pastor