

Adult Bible Discovery- November 1, 2020: All Saints Day

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain and sat down. His disciples came to him,² and he began to teach them:

³ *“Blessed are those who recognize they are spiritually helpless.*

The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

⁴ *Blessed are those who mourn.*

They will be comforted.

⁵ *Blessed are those who are gentle.*

They will inherit the earth.

⁶ *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for God’s approval.*

They will be satisfied.

⁷ *Blessed are those who show mercy.*

They will be treated mercifully.

⁸ *Blessed are those whose thoughts are pure.*

They will see God.

⁹ *Blessed are those who make peace.*

They will be called God’s children.

¹⁰ *Blessed are those who are persecuted for doing what God approves of.*

The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

¹¹ *“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you, lie, and say all kinds of evil things about you because of me.*

¹² *Rejoice and be glad because you have a great reward in heaven!*

The prophets who lived before you were persecuted in these ways. - Matthew 5:1-12

Matthew 5 is the Gospel reading assigned to the lectionary for every All Saints Sunday.

Who are some of the saints you look up to and are certain that every Christian would agree? What did they do? What is it about them specifically that inspires you?

Who are some of the people in your circle, that lack worldwide recognition, but you still believe to be a saint? What is it about them specifically that leads you to identify them as saintly?

If this day were known as “some Saints Day” we might have rotating accounts of specific individuals for the reading; since it is All Saints Sunday do you think Matthew 5 is a perfect text? Why or why not? Why do you suppose it was chosen for the lectionary reading?

Speaking of “Perfect”, what does Jesus have to say about perfection at the end of the chapter? (See Matthew 5:48)

When you look over vs. 17-47 do you think the term saint is one that you ought to be credited with?

Look at verses 13a and 14a. Notice Jesus does not add the word “IF” and then describe how could be that we are “salt and light.” Jesus just states it as fact! You are (we are...all of us Christians) “salt and light.” What would that say about the state of our “perfection” (vs. 48) and our righteousness (vs. 20)

Our righteousness is Christ’s own righteousness credited to us through faith; thus, when the Father looks at us, He see the perfection of Jesus and hence we are nothing less than the saints of God.

As such, as salt and light, how ought we live? See vs. 1-12 for help.