

Homily, 21st July, 2016

Mat 13,10-17

father G. Paparone o.p.

Dearest,

I read this verse that concludes the teaching of Jesus on the parable of the “Good Sower”, which tells how the seed can be hosted or rejected and how this refused seed was mainly directed to the chosen people, destined for the *Kingdom of God*, to receive the firstfruits of God as was Abraham.

Jesus complains to this people, recalling a teaching of Isaiah (cf. Isa 44 and Ps 115): *they have eyes but do not see, they have ears but do not hear*; but blessed are you who have heard and listened to.

So there is a bliss connected to the understanding of the person and teaching of Jesus.

When we think of the beatitudes, we normally think of the eight ones of the “Sermon on the Mount”: *Blessed are the poor in spirit, ... blessed are the meek, ... blessed are the merciful, ... blessed are those who are persecuted, ...* (cf. Mat 5,1 ff.).

In the Gospel, however, **there are other beatitudes that are ascribed to those who have a spiritual understanding and a willingness to accept Jesus as Saviour.**

What is this blessing of eyes that see Jesus and ears that hear his word?

It is the beatitude of those who have found the WAY!

Dear friends, let us reflect for a while: we are always in trouble, always looking for a solution; at best we have some problems to be solved in our lives. This is because - as we know - life is temporary, it is constantly exposed to corruption...

There is always something missing, something we may have lived better or fully achieved.

And it is so for the deepest sense of existence.

I believe that each of us carries deep in his heart a sense of failure, of inadequacy.

As a priest, while talking to many people, I realize this.

Fortunately there are many happy moments in our life, when we marry, we fall in love, we have children, we begin a new occupation... But these are fleeting and we always miss something...

As I said earlier, it is the same for the meaning of life: it seems to be missing something.

Who discovers that Jesus is the life, that Jesus is the way, who understands – because he does it – the depth, the beauty, and the ability of God's word to communicate life and grace, then he experiences something profoundly joyful.

This is the blessedness of those who see Jesus.

If we could understand who Jesus really is, what he did for us really, the way He watches us and what He would like to donate, then we could really start living a blessed life...

Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear

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Then, let us ask the Lord to give us this first great gift: making us understand who He really is and what He can really give us.

Praised be Jesus Christ