

Covenant Life

- Last Night our school held its annual Student Benefit Banquet. It was a fabulous and super fun evening. There are still items that our teachers requested that are not funded. Consider logging on and donating to these teacher requests or use the last item in the list to donate to this awesome ministry of our Community. Click here to help MSMCS: [Teacher Wish List and Donations](#)
- Our Annual **NAN Conference** will be this weekend February 20-22nd in Augusta, GA. If you are unable to attend in person you can watch the livestream. For more information and to access the links please click: [NAN 2025 Conference](#)
- Our next prayer meeting will be a week from today on February 23rd at 3pm. Children and Youth ministries plan to meet.
- [GodsDelight.org](#) has prayer meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), and [teachings](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please enter your 2025 Promise [here](#), donate online [here](#), or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

Reflection

The common link between the readings the Church offers us today is blessing vs woes. In the [First Reading](#) Jeremiah states plainly that "*Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD*". The psalmist in the [Responsorial Psalm](#) proclaims "*Blessed the man who...delights in the law of the LORD and meditates on his law day and night*". Finally, in the [Gospel](#) Jesus says blessed those who are poor and hungry, those weeping and hated.

I think we all want to be blessed, and no one desires to be cursed or warned with woes. Reflecting upon the reading today should give us pause. To what extent do I really trust in the Lord? To what extent do I really delight in the law of the Lord and meditate on it day and night? To what extent am I poor, hungry, weeping, and hated for His sake? These are tough questions.

The Sermon on the Plain (as today's Gospel reading from Luke is referred to) and the similar Sermon on the Mount are instructing Christians how to live 'in the world but not of the world'. There is a natural tendency in all of us to fit in, to want to be accepted and loved. The issue that Jesus is trying to get across is that we were not created for this world but for another. He is explaining, as clearly as possible, that we must refocus our attention beyond what we can see. We are to

look to our call to the eternal and detach from the allurements and comforts of the day.

So specifically, how do we respond to these calls? Considering the first challenge to trust in the Lord, we can regularly pray [The Surrender Novena](#) offering to Jesus whatever causes us concern and asking Him to take care of it. Regarding the second exhortation to delight in the law of the LORD and meditate on it day and night, we can prioritize our prayer time with the Lord and always incorporate time meditating on His Word. My spiritual director, in recently addressing my challenge to spend quality time in simple silence, encouraged me to persevere by gradually lengthening the quiet time after each verse I read.

Responding to Jesus' words in the Gospel requires a bit more work. Jesus is appealing to the people about living with the social inequities and conflicts of His day...but I believe the same challenges and situations exist today. Our Christian tradition is full of exhortations to care for those on the fringes of our society. To Love the unloved; to house the unhoused; to comfort those who mourn. This was behind our Community establishing a St. Vincent de Paul fund to help our members with financial needs. It is also why we have small groups so that we stay close to one another to offer comfort and support through life's trying times.

There is a lot to reflect on today. Let us each take time today to ask Jesus to increase our trust in Him, to delight in His Word and spend quality time in prayer with Him and His Word every day. And also, to show us how to support those marginalized in our society and really love those who are not easy to love.

Let us pray, "Jesus, I ask for an outpouring of Your Holy Spirit today so that I can trust You in everything...my life, my health, my family, everything. I recommit to spending time with You and Your Word and to humbly love and care for those You lead me to encounter each day. Empower me with the words of love and encouragement so that I can be You to those in my life and really love them as You love them. I love You Jesus! Amen."

God Bless,
David