



IMMANUEL CHURCH

(CNI MALAYALAM PARISH)

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"Year of Witnessing" [Mark 5:34]





Presbyter's Desk

Dearly Beloved, greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven" [Matthew: 5:1-12]"

Dearly Beloved, greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The above mentioned scripture passage is the essence of the Sermon on the Mount, which was probably preached around 30 A.D. The Sermon on the Mount, in particular the Beatitudes, is the crux of the teachings of Jesus Christ that sets out the fundamental norms and values of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Beatitudes, which are like a prologue to the Sermon on the Mount, are the blessings or the announcement of God's favour. They are also the most remembered words of Jesus. And these words have greatly influenced many Indian Christian Theologians and nationalists like Mahatma Gandhi.

The beatitudes, as I just said, talks about blessings; it emphasizes God's favour being granted to those whom society regards as the ones left behind: the poor in spirit, the meek, the mourners, the merciful, those hungering for justice, the pure hearted, the makers of peace, and those mistreated for the cause of justice.

It has become a recent trend among gospel preachers in revival meetings and also church services to present the gospel as one that talks mostly if not, only, on prosperity and the idea of 'current and present blessings' from God. These preachers however miss the point that the gospels, through the

Sermon on the Mount, give not only blessings but also an eschatological hope for the future for one and all. Then again when it comes to the promise of blessings, what sets apart the beatitudes is that, Jesus himself is promising these blessings. These blessings from God are the direct result of the coming of the Kingdom of God. In the preceding chapter, we see Jesus beginning his ministry of spreading the Good news. He tells people that the Kingdom of heaven is at hand; God's reign of Justice and peace is coming. This message hold true to our contemporary times as well when the poor are trampled upon and the helpless are mistreated by the society at large. But because the kingdom of God has come, the poor, the meek, and the peacemakers will all be blessed.

In the present world, it is a sad fact that, there are millions living in circumstances that can be rightly termed as 'poor' be it economic, political, social, physical or mental. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus says that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to the poor, not those who are poor in material things, but those who are poor in spirit. And that is the good news for the genuinely poor and oppressed in this world.

Nowadays the material wealth is considering as a potential obstacle to the discipleship. The synoptic Gospel narrates the story of s rich young man, who approached Jesus seeking eternal life. Jesus tells him to clear his obstacle by giving away his riches to poor. Through this words Jesus told to that man emptying yourselves. In Indian context majority of the people are poor in spiritually and materially. But one of the important things which the word of God says us that the poor person is not excluded from heaven because of his poverty; and the rich person is not accepted because of his wealth. Both must humble themselves before the Lord in order to be part of the kingdom. It is often easier for the down and out of this world to do that, than for the rich to do it.

The passage helps us a little with our understanding of "the poor". We tend to think of the poor primarily in terms of finances or possessions. That is part of it, but there is a spiritual side to it too. In Isaiah 63:1-3 the prophet

describes the people who had been taken into exile. They were of course poor, having their land and possessions ripped away; but they were also afflicted and oppressed, they were powerless and without hope, and they were desperate. The physical poverty was intensified and oppressed. The physical poverty was intensified by the poverty in their spirit.

The blessing Jesus announces is that “theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Now this of course does not mean that all poor people are in the kingdom. One thinks of the self-made poverty of the prodigal son. Poverty is not the chief thing, but the qualification of the spirit is. Theologian D.A Carson says that “Poverty of spirit is the personal acknowledgement of bankruptcy. It is the conscious confession of unworthiness before God. Poverty of spirit becomes a general confession of a man’s need for God, a humble admission of importance without him.”

It is the poor in spirit, those who have humbled themselves and become dependent on God that shall have the kingdom of heaven. In fact, everyone who is to enter the kingdom has to become poor in spirit. They all need to come with a broken heart and a contrite spirit seeking the Saviour.

Thus, being poor in spirit means being humble before God. It is the realization that one has nothing in this life that one can contribute to receive the kingdom of Heaven. One has to have an afflicted soul, meaning that one has humbled oneself and repented with deep contrition, and has come to the King as a helpless sinner. There is no arrogance, and therefore one stands liberated in the presence of God. Everyone who wishes to enter the kingdom must be ‘spiritually poor’ for salvation is a gift from God.

I think this small reflection is more helpful for your Biblical understanding in your Christian journey.

God Bless you all.

Shibu Achen



Almanac for the month of May 2022

Date	Name of Sunday	Theme	Lessons
May 01	2nd Sunday After Easter	Re-reading the Scripture with the Risen Lord	2 Chron.34:29-33 Acts. 8:26-40 Psalms. 19:7-14 Luke. 24:13-27
May 08	3rd Sunday After Easter	Commissioning by the Risen Lord	Jer. 9:1-10 1 Timo.4:6-16 Psalms.47 John 20:19-23
May 15	4th Sunday After Easter	Believing in Christ: The Truth	Exod.34:1-9 Eph.4:7-16 Psalms 119:89-96 John17:6-19
May 22	5th Sunday After Easter	CMission with Christ's Spirit	2 Kings 2:9-16 Acts 7:54-60 Psalms 105:1-11 Matt 28:16:20
May 29	6th Sunday After Easter	Lead by the Holy Spirit	Exod 36:1-7 Rom. 8:12-17 Psalms. 107:1-22 John 14:25-31



Wedding Anniversary Greetings To

May 09	Mr. Koshy K Koshy and Mrs. Jessie Koshy
May 11	Mr. K.C Thomas and Mrs. Molly Thomas
May 17	Mr. C.R. Prakash and Mrs. Aleyamma Prakash
May 18	Mr. Kuruvilla M Chacko and Mrs. Daisy Kuruvilla
May 19	Mr. M.N. Chandy and Mrs. Mariamma Chandy
May 21	Mr. V.C. Joshua and Mrs. Susamma Joshua
May 26	Mr. Jilo Jacob and Mrs. Jubie Jilo
May 29	Mr. Mr. Rostin Paul and Mrs. Marlyn Rostin

Birthday Greetings To

May 01	Ryan Samuel C	
May 02	Mrs. Aleyammalype	W/o Mr. Iype Varghese
May 04	Ivaan Thomas	S/o Dr. Ashish Thomas
May 07	Jonnas Jacob	S/o Jacob Roy
May 07	Johanna Jacob	D/o Jacob Roy
May 08	Mr. Chrisymon K John	
May 11	Miss. Liya Mariam Liju	D/o Mr. LijuOommen
May 12	Mr. Abraham Thomas	
May 13	Miss. Jesna Philip	D/o Mr. Philip C Paul
May 14	Mr. Kuruvilla M Chacko	
May 15	Mr. Joseph John	
May 15	Miss. Shilumol Shaji	D/o Mr. Shaji John
May 16	Mr. Rajeev Theodore	
May 16	Mr. Aaron John Benzon	S/o Mr. Benzon John
May 20	Mrs. Salykkutty Shaji	W/o Mr. Shaji Kurian
May 20	Mrs. Elizabeth John	W/o Mr. Varkey John
May 20	Mrs. Saly Mathai	W/o Mr. T.V. Mathai
May 22	Mrs. Sophy Jacob	W/o Mr. Jacob G George
May 22	Mrs. Mariamma Mathew	W/o Mr. Thomas Mathew
May 22	Mrs. Aleyamma George	
May 24	Mr. C.V. John	
May 24	Mrs. Daisy Rajan	W/o Mr. Rajan Varghese
May 24	Mr. Mini Shaji	W/o Mr. Abraham George
May 27	Mr. Philip C Paul	
May 27	Jenny ValsaJeeven	D/o Mr. Jeeven Jacob
May 30	Mrs. Gracykutty Ashly	W/o Mr. Ashly Jayaraj
May 31	Mrs. Annamma John	W/o Mr. C.V. John

GOOD FRIDAY



EASTER DAY FOOD DISTRIBUTION





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