

## Peace Is...Being Merciful

**Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13** “Seek the Lord... seek justice, seek humility...”

We must choose to live righteously, even if others persist in wrongdoing.

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31** “Consider your own calling...”

We are each called to know and love God, and to serve Him.

What are you, with your unique abilities and characteristics, called to do in your life?

What is God calling you to do today?

**Matthew 5:1-12a** “...Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy...

...Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

These are the Beatitudes. The word *beatitude* means perfect happiness. “These Beatitudes are taught by Jesus as the foundations for a life of authentic Christian discipleship and the attainment of ultimate happiness.”<sup>1</sup> “They shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life.”<sup>2</sup>

### Reflection

- The Christian life confronts us with moral choices. We are invited to “purify our hearts of [negative] instincts and to seek the love of God above all else.” We are taught that “true happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or power, or in any human achievement... but in God alone, the source of every good and of all love.”<sup>2</sup>

- The readings remind us to be humble, not boasting about our accomplishments, but rather boasting in the Lord. After all, whatever abilities and opportunities we have are given to us by God.

- How we deal with people reflects how much we allow the love of Jesus to work in and through us. **What can you do to show God’s mercy to others, just as He has been merciful to you?** It is not up to us to judge others. We are to love them, to be understanding, to be kind and merciful. This leads to a greater good, and to our own happiness. God will take care of the rest.

### Action

As we begin our Lenten journey this coming week, **let us practice a Christian attitude** toward others in our daily lives. Be patient and understanding in your dealings with people, while driving the car, in line at the store, in talking with family members, and at work, especially with those who are difficult to get along with. Pick someone who has hurt you in past and forgive him or her. Greet everyone with a warm smile; it could make all the difference. Remember to reflect Christ’s love in your actions.

***“It is necessary to go to the very fringes of society to take to everyone the light of Christ’s message about the meaning of life, the family, and society, reaching out to those who live in the desert of neglect and poverty and loving them with the love of the Risen Christ.” ~ Pope Benedict XVI, Address to the Pilgrims from Madrid, Spain, July 4, 2005.***

<sup>1</sup> United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, January 2007

<sup>2</sup> Catechism of the Catholic Church, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994