

The Blind leading the blind

Luke's "Sermon on the Plain" (Luke 6:20-49) is the counterpart to Matthew's "Sermon on the Mount" (Mt 5:1-7:27). It is addressed to the disciples of Jesus, and, like the sermon in Matthew, it begins with beatitudes and ends with the parable of the two houses: The one who listens to Jesus' words and acts on them is like a person who built a house and laid the foundation on rock; the flood came but could not shake it because it was well built. But the one who listens but does not act on them is like a person who built a house without a foundation; when the floods came, it collapsed at once and was completely destroyed.

Almost all the words of Jesus reported by Luke are found in Matthew's version, but because Matthew includes sayings that were specifically related to Jewish Christian problems that Luke did not find appropriate for his predominantly Gentile Christian audience, the "Sermon on the Plain" is considerably shorter. Luke's "Sermon on the Plain" is very much needed to be heard by Christians in today's world, where we are constantly being exposed to a lot of noise of the controversies happening around us.

Luke's blessings and woes teach us to hope for God's kingdom, that to those who are poor and lacking in material possessions, they are still blessed by God and they can always look forward to the coming of God's kingdom. The Sermon on the Plain also teaches us to love our enemies, no matter how hard that may be – we are taught to imitate God in His love and mercy for all humanity including our enemies. It is only when we love our enemies can we truly be called the children of God.



The Sermon on the Plain also teaches us to love our neighbor – not by worldly standards, but always with forgiveness and generosity.

In a world where there is so much opposition and everyone is pointing fingers at each other, casting blame for everything, Jesus' words direct us to look towards heavenly sights: Jesus said, "Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?" (Luke 6:41) Jesus wants

us to stop judging others, and instead to focus inwardly on our own faults. If we can do that, then our perspective of life will broaden and everyone will be more at peace and happier for it.

Jesus also said, "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit." (Luke 6:43) Every person is like a tree – a good person is like a good tree that bears good fruit, and a bad person is like a bad tree that bears rotten fruit. A good person produces good out of the goodness of his heart, while an evil person produces evil because of the evil that is in his heart. If we want to change from doing evil to doing good, then we should change our hearts first.

The parable of the blind leading the blind (Luke 6:39) can also be found in Matthew 15:14: "Let them alone; they are blind guides [of the blind]. If a blind person leads a blind person, both will fall into a pit." In Matthew, we can see that the blind leading the blind are none other than the scribes and Pharisees. They questioned why Jesus' disciples are breaking the tradition of the elders by not washing their hands before eating. Here, Jesus warns His disciples not to follow the moral guidance of the Pharisees (Mt 15:13-14), because they worship God in vain and they teach human precepts as doctrines (cf. Mt 15:9). The scribes and the Pharisees know the law, but they are lacking in divine truth; hence, the people who follow their teaching fall into the pit of moral error and confusion, and they are far from salvation.

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THE HOLY NAME of Jesus CHINESE CATHOLIC MISSION

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每周公告 Weekly Bulletin

2025年三月二日 March 2, 2025

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention children and parents: We will have Sunday School class today.

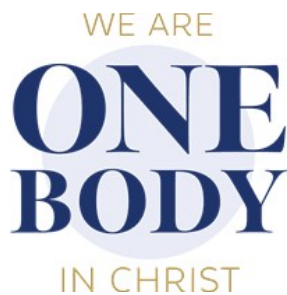
Fr. Bill will administer the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in the Sanctuary after the 10:30am Mass. Those who would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick, please come to the front of the Sanctuary right after Mass.



This Wednesday, March 5, is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Mass in Chinese will be at 12:00 noon. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence. Fridays in Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. Please check our church website for the guidelines for fasting and abstinence during Lent. The liturgical schedule for Lent and Easter is now available. You can pick up a printed copy in the church foyer.

For members of the Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

Fr. Biao Wu will come and visit us again, he will lead our Lenten retreat on March 8th from 10am to 4pm. The theme is "Pilgrims on the Road to Heaven". We wish to thank Oswald Ho for volunteering to provide lunch for the Lenten retreat on March 8. If you would like to join us for dinner with Fr. Biao Wu, please sign up with Antonia Fu.



The Archbishop's Annual Appeal for 2025 has begun. Our goal is \$3,600. For your convenience, you can make your donations through our church. If you wish to donate through our church, please make sure your check is payable to HNOJ and write AAA in the memo. Please use the AAA envelopes provided. Thank you for your support.

Prayer List: Liu Guifang, Lydia Chen, Lu Shumi, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	Sundays 9:00-9:30 AM	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)	Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM	Mondays 6:00 PM (English)
	By Appointment	
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)		Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	Anointing of the Sick	Sundays 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Tuesdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 7:00 PM (English)		
First Saturday 10:00 AM (Chinese)		