

Sunday 3rd November 2019 - 'All Saints' Day'

Luke 6:20-31

The talk this Sunday began with thinking about those followers of Jesus who have gone before us, whose memory is precious to us. They might well include people who were instrumental in helping us along with our faith.

1. Who has been significant to you in your journey of faith and why?

Our reading from Luke 6 is focused towards Jesus' followers, the disciples, while the very similar reading in Matthew 5 is directed towards everyone. I suggested that verses 20 - 23 of Luke 6 could be summaries as:-

*"Don't despair if things haven't worked out for you like you had hoped financially, don't give up if you are hurting emotionally, don't let go of my promises if you are anxious about someone you love . . . I have not forgotten you and this is not the last word on your situation. You are mine and your hunger will one day be satisfied and your weeping will one day turn to laughter. If you are rejected by your friends because of your devotion to me, take satisfaction in this . . . that is the way the world has always treated those who would go the extra mile in my service."*

2. Spend some time as a group working through this summary. Are there any things that particularly 'stand out' for you? Comparing this summary to the actual verses, is there anything extra that you would want to add in?
3. If the discussion from question 2 has brought up issues that need to be prayed through, spend time, as a group praying together.

The final section of the reading for this morning is headed, 'Love for Enemies' in my Bible.

4. Try to summarise these verses (27 - 31) in a similar way to my summary of 20 - 23.
5. Why is it so hard to live out the teaching in these verses?
6. How did Jesus manage to live out the teaching in these verses (can you think of examples?) and how can we do the same?