

**Week 8: Tuesday, October 27, 2009**

**EDU 603: Scriptural Foundations for Teaching the Faith Today**

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**I. Word of the Week on *Gospel* (cf. word of the week on *Repentance*).**

1. The Gospel of Matthew: writing to a Palestinian Christian Jewish audience. Every first century Jew knew the Torah by heart by the age of 13. Every New Testament word was illuminated by the Old.

A. Mt.1:1: What is the significance of Christ's pedigree?

B. "Son of David" is seen 9 times in Matthew reinforcing the Davidic Kingdom was present--a thematic picture to the Gospel of Matthew. Reader is well aware of the role that the son of David would have in salvation history.

1. 2 Sam.7:10...covenant established between God and David's line.

3. Consult word of the week on *Kingdom*...highlight three dimensions.

4. The story of Jesus is the climax of Israel, and the giving of the beatitudes corresponds to the 10 commandments. Matthew purposely draws on Old Testament imagery to magnify the message of Jesus and who he was. Note word of the week on *Type*. Note Mosaic typological imagery:

<u>Moses</u>	<u>Jesus</u>
<u>1. Wicked decree by Pharaoh</u>	<u>-wicked decree given by King Herod</u>
<u>2. Saved through Joseph's dream</u>	<u>-saved through Joseph's dream</u>
<u>3. Freed from slavery through waters</u>	<u>-freed from slavery through waters</u>
<u>4. Fasted for 40 days and 40 nights</u>	<u>-fasted for 40 days and 40 nights</u>
<u>5. Next seen giving law of O.C. on Mtn.</u>	<u>-next seen giving law of N.C. on Mtn.</u>

1. Moses hands the baton to Joshua to lead the people to the Promised Land. Jesus (Hebrew word for Joshua) is the new Joshua who receives the baton from Moses (typologically) to pioneer a new exodus and entrance into the Promised Land.

a. Ex. 4.22... "*For out of Egypt I have called my son.*"

5. The Beatitudes and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Rooted in the great prophecy of Is.11 where Isaiah speaks to the kinds of gifts that will rest upon the Messiah and the coming of the kingdom of Heaven--"the stump from the tree of Jesse". They are as follows: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge; piety; and fear of the Lord. These gifts are possessed in their fullness of Christ and are given to us when we are baptized. According to St. Augustine, the first seven Beatitudes correspond to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

A. The Beatitudes are paradoxical promises that when we see things in light of their proper perspective they are turned upside down. These eschatological (pointing toward the end) promises have in them the exponential value of eternity. They also are seen as the law of the new covenant; the new order in which God makes saints out of those followers who wish to be "set apart" (cf. Jer.31;31-34). Now let us consider St. Augustine's study of the relationship between the Beatitudes and the Gifts

of the Holy Spirit (De Serm. Dom. 1, 4, 11...search Catholic encyclopedia)...Also taken from the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible.

- i. Poor in Spirit/ Fear of God: Reverence for God awakens the soul to their child-like spirit and helps realize their own poverty of heart. It is recognizing our moral weakness and dependence upon God.
  1. Poverty steers all virtue (Benedict XVI, 76).
- ii. Mourning/Knowledge: Knowledge offers a correct estimation of created goods and their appropriate value before God.
  1. Mourning is the beatitude that grieves man's earthly plight.
- iii. Meek/ Filial love: Filial love moves the soul to adoration and worship and protects the soul against the hardened heart.
  1. Meekness is not weakness, rather the calming presence in a difficult situation. Meekness is the voice of humility!
- iv. Hunger for righteousness/Fortitude: Fortitude is that gift of firm resolution to pursue holiness at all costs.
  1. Righteousness and faith (Benedict, pg.89)...to walk in righteousness is to walk in holiness.
- v. Merciful/Counsel: Counsel assists prudent decision-making and helps guard against the "folly: wisdom of the world; it acts as an interior guide. Counsel also is the "glove-ball" to mercy in that it steers proper compassion.
  1. Consult Word of the Week on *Mercy*.
- vi. Pure of Heart/Understanding: Understanding offers insight into the mysteries of our faith, not just a mere intellectual understanding, but also a perception of the heart.
  1. Pure of heart: recall that the heart in antiquity was the center of the person...the locus of love and obedience.
- vii. Peacemakers/Wisdom: Wisdom is the contemplative reflection into those things that are divine. Establishes the proper sense of spiritual welfare.
  1. Consult the Word of the Week on *Peace*
- viii. The eighth beatitude is the summation of the previous seven. When you live out these beatitudes, you will be persecuted for the sake of the Kingdom of heaven!