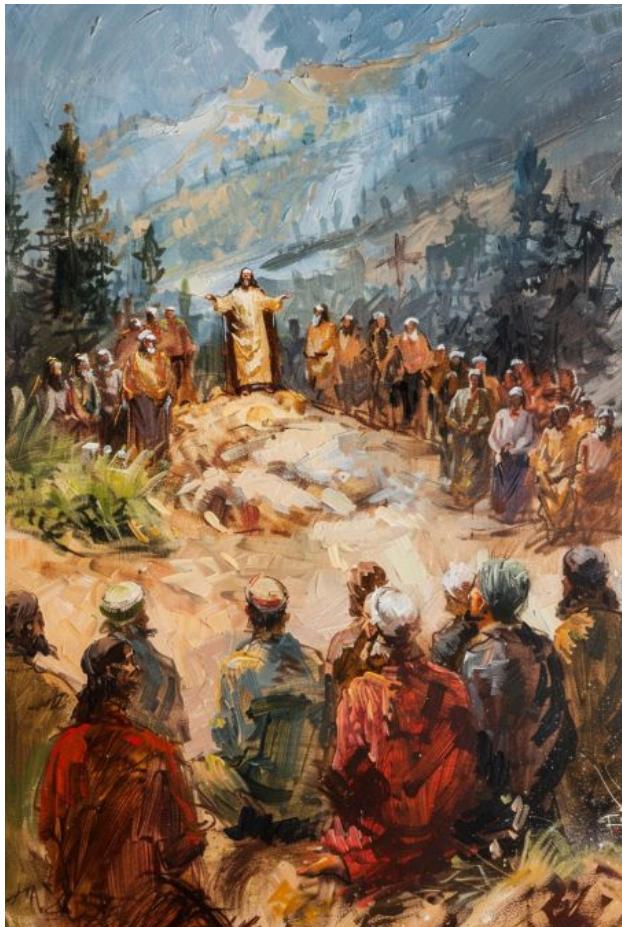


FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

God Manifests His Glory in the Humility and Weakness of Christ Crucified



Christ's Sermon on the mount Artist unknown

shedding of His blood. His great mercy and salvation lead us “*to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly*” with our God (Micah 6:8). We boast only in the incarnate and crucified Lord Jesus. He is “*the power of God and the wisdom of God*” (1 Cor. 1:24). He is our life and salvation, our “*wisdom*” and “*righteousness and sanctification and redemption*” (1 Cor. 1:30). Now He opens His mouth and teaches us His wisdom. By His cross and Passion, the kingdom of heaven is ours. We receive mercy and are satisfied; we see God and are called sons of God in Christ. “*Blessed are you,*” therefore, “*when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely*” on account of Christ (Matt. 5:11).

Background: Are you happy with your life? What should I be doing? In the Gospel this coming weekend, we read Christ’s words as a teacher. Telling us what it takes to be Blessed. And it almost seems upside down from an Andrew Carnegie course. Yes, sometimes we give praise to people who have acquired great riches, being totally amoral! Rather we read from Micah and Christ’s word that we are “Blessed” if we are searching for righteousness. From Micah does God require big offerings or sacrifices—NO! Rather God asks that we act justly, to love mercy, and walk humbly with your God. Note that our ability to trust in God for our salvation is a gift of God, given to us by the Holy Spirit. So we serve God in thankfulness and praise.

The Lessons: Micah 6:1–8, 1 Corinthians

1:18–31, & Matthew 5:1–12 The Lord tells His people, “*I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery*” (Micah 6:4). By the sacrifice of His beloved Son, He has redeemed us from our slavery of sin and death. He has forgiven our transgressions by the

shedding of His blood. His great mercy and salvation lead us “*to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly*” with our God (Micah 6:8). We boast only in the incarnate and crucified Lord Jesus. He is “*the power of God and the wisdom of God*” (1 Cor. 1:24). He is our life and salvation, our “*wisdom*” and “*righteousness and sanctification and redemption*” (1 Cor. 1:30). Now He opens His mouth and teaches us His wisdom. By His cross and Passion, the kingdom of heaven is ours. We receive mercy and are satisfied; we see God and are called sons of God in Christ. “*Blessed are you,*” therefore, “*when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely*” on account of Christ (Matt. 5:11).