

## *The Miracles of All Saints Day*

Luke 6:20-31 (November 6, 2022)

### *Luke 6:20-31*

<sup>20</sup>Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup>“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. <sup>22</sup>“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. <sup>24</sup>“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. <sup>25</sup>“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup>“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

<sup>27</sup>“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you.

### *Historical Context*

**All Saints' Day**, also known as **All Hallows' Day**,<sup>[3]</sup> the **Feast of All Saints**,<sup>[4][5]</sup> the **Feast of All Hallows**,<sup>[6]</sup> the **Solemnity of All Saints**,<sup>[6]</sup> and **Hallowmas**,<sup>[6][7]</sup> is a [Christian solemnity](#) celebrated in honour of all the [saints](#) of the church, whether they are known or unknown.<sup>[7][8][9]</sup>

From the 4th century, [feasts](#) commemorating all [Christian martyrs](#) were held in various places,<sup>[3]</sup> on various dates near [Easter](#) and [Pentecost](#). In the 9th century, some churches in the [British Isles](#) began holding the commemoration of all saints on 1 November, and in the 9th century this was extended to the whole Catholic church by [Pope Gregory IV](#).

### *Theme: The Miracles of All Saints Day*

All Saints Day is a witness to God's way of blessing the world. Jesus brought God's way of ruling the world down to earth and invited his disciples into this holy venture. That is the first miracle of All Saints Day! As the people of God pray in thanksgiving for the saints or light candles in remembrance of those who have died, Jesus has shown how his reign works. It's not about how a few achieved perfection as the “holy ones.” When we die, the prayer is the same for the most pious and those regarded as rascals. Trusting in God's love in Jesus Christ, we are all commended to God as “lambs of your own flock and sinners of your own redeeming.”

Biblical realism about sinners who are saints means no one needs to pretend perfection. Jesus knew his disciples were about to get it wrong by putting themselves in the way, and God knows that we mere mortals all have the same predicament. But as we remember the saints who have gone, our thanksgiving is also aware sometimes they got it right and the living Christ was at work in them. It is also true that those with little claim to privilege have often blessed us and the world with their Christ-like kindness. The car that stopped to help us when we broke down was not a fancy model, but the old heap driven by a rough looking character. She is gone now, and we thank God for how holy mercy shone through her just when we needed it.

Make sure your observance of All Saints Day celebrates the times when ordinary sinners conveyed God's holy love to you and to the world, probably in unexpected times and places. The first miracle of All Saints Day is about God whose holy reign is still at work in the lives of the likes of us.

And the second miracle of All Saints Day is about us and how our lives are transformed. We forgiven sinners are called and sent to be ordinary saints in God's world, enacting God's love and justice.!" "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God" (Luke 6:20). The saints, "the holy ones" who are "beloved of God" are, by God's grace, mere mortals like us. The old Anglican children's hymn has it right: "I sing a song of the saints of God ... and I want to be one too." Indeed, by the Spirit of the living Christ, we get to be saints too!