

ALL SAINTS HOMILY

LUKE 6:20-31

While there are exceptions, most of us have fond memories of days gone by. In fact, I believe that for many people when they think of the “Good Old Days” they remember the days of their youth.

-no major responsibilities

-not too deeply concerned with issues of the world

-everything was new and fresh, as if the world had seen such a thing before

The Good Old Days is a fair analogy for what we mark with All Saints Day. And a good lead in to our gospel lesson this morning.

We read Luke’s version of Christ’s earliest teaching.

As in Sermon on the Mount he includes Blessings and Woes.

-Blessed are the poor, yours is the kingdom of God

-Blessed are hungry, you will be filled

-Blessed are those who weep, you will laugh

-Blessed are those persecuted because of me, your reward will be great

Followed by

-Woe to the rich, you have received your reward

-Woe to the full, you will be hungry

-Woe to those laughing, you will weep

-Woe to those who speak well of you, that's what they did to the false prophets.

He concludes this portion with:

- Love your enemies**
- Do good to those who hate you**
- Pray for those who abuse you**
- Turn the other cheek**
- Give to the poor**
- Do unto other as you would have them do unto you.**

Jesus isn't declaring that just your poor or rich determines how God will treat you. This is Jesus telling followers to set their priorities correctly. To love the things of God more than the things of the world.

And of course, the love your enemies and golden rule. Is about loving your neighbor as yourself.

Oooh, did you see what I did there. Jesus just replaced all the Old Testament

laws with just two, love God and love your neighbor.

There are a number of types of sermons you can hear on a Sunday morning:

- Evangelistic, your relationship to God**
- Prophetic, your behavior and how it aligns with God's justice**
- Teaching, analyzing a specific text**
- Gratitude, remembering the good things we have received and giving thanks**

That is today's sermon:

Remembering the saints that came before us and taught us about the faith.

I suspect many of you heard these words this morning and among other things thought about someone who fit into these

categories. Someone important to you, someone who said these very things to you.

You remembered those saints. Today we give thanks for those saints. A parent a teacher, a friend, a preacher, maybe even someone you didn't know all that well. But someone who made an impact in your life. Someone sent by God to you

Now comes that tricky part. When we give thanks for someone like that, the next step in gratitude is to share that with someone else.

You see, to be a saint doesn't mean you're holier than everyone else. It means you believe in and love God, and you act and speak in a way that demonstrates that love to others.

In your Good old days you learned the faith from some important people. Today you are the ones teaching that faith to the next generation.

I often start group letters or emails with the words dear saints, I know full well that everyone who reads that note is an imperfect person, we are all imperfect people. But I also know that each one of those people is a believer in Jesus Christ.

On this all saints day, let's give thanks for those who taught us, but even more importantly, let's be sure that we are teaching that faith to the generation to come.

Thanks be to God. Amen.