

Reflection Wednesday Week 23 – 2020

Is it certain the poor will be happy with their lot? I am not so sure! In the older translation the word *Blessed* was used instead of *Happy* and offers a better understanding. You can be blessed without being happy with your lot. In fact, we are all blessed by God, after all we are made in God's image which is a blessing in itself. Yet, in poverty, we are made more aware of our limitations and failings. We pray more for guidance and relief, and are much more aware of the importance of God in our lives. The blessing is the consequence of our situation because everything is paired away to the essentials like food, heat and electricity. It also highlights the importance of family and friendship, helping each other, the communities in which we live. Let us acknowledge the blessing of creation with St Francis of Assisi in his Canticle of the Sun:

O most High, almighty, good Lord God, to you belong praise, glory, honour, and all blessing!

Praised be my Lord God with all creatures;

and especially our brother the sun, which brings us the day, and the light;

fair is he, and shining with a very great splendour: O Lord, he shows you to us!

Praised be my Lord for our sister the moon, and for the stars,

which God has set clear and lovely in heaven.

Praised be my Lord for our brother the wind, and for air and cloud, calms and all weather, by which you uphold in life all creatures.

Praised be my Lord for our sister water, which is very serviceable to us, and humble, and precious, and clean.

Praised be my Lord for brother fire, through which you give us light in the darkness: and he is bright, and pleasant, and very mighty, and strong.

Praised be my Lord for our mother the Earth, which sustains us and keeps us, and yields divers fruits, and flowers of many colours, and grass.

Praised be my Lord for all those who pardon one another for God's love's sake, and who endure weakness and tribulation;

blessed are they who peaceably shall endure; for you, O most High, shall give them a crown!

Praised be my Lord for our sister, the death of the body, from which no one escapes.

Woe to him who dies in mortal sin!

Blessed are they who are found walking by your most holy will,

for the second death shall have no power to do them harm.

Praise you, and bless you the Lord, and give thanks to God, and serve God with great humility.

Blessings . . .

An angel appears and says, *"I'll grant you whichever of three blessings you choose. Wisdom, beauty, or ten million dollars."*

Immediately, the man chooses wisdom. There is a flash of lightning, he is transformed, but then he just sits there, staring down at the table.

One of his colleagues whispers, "You have great wisdom. Say something!"

The man says, "*I should have taken the money.*"