

## Reflection Monday Week 10 – 2023

Pope Francis believes that people close their hearts to salvation out of fear. Although we need salvation, we are also afraid of it. When the Lord comes to save us, we must give everything, and at that point he commands; and we fear this. We want to be in control and be our own masters. So, salvation doesn't come and the consolation of the Spirit doesn't reach us.

The Beatitudes are the law for those who have been saved and have opened their heart to salvation.

Ask the Lord for "the grace to follow him", not like the Pharisees and Sadducees who were hypocrites because they wanted "to follow him only with human freedom". Hypocrisy is exactly that: "Not allowing the Spirit to change our hearts with his salvation. The freedom that the Spirit gives is a sort of slavery, a slavery to the Lord who sets us free. It is another kind of liberty".

We often want to "bargain" with God by taking only what is convenient for us, "a little of this, a little of that". It's like "making a fruit salad: a little of the Spirit and a little of the spirit of the world". However, with God there is no halfway house: the person chooses either "one thing or the other".

Pope Francis also offers us six new beatitudes:

1. "Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others and forgive them from their heart.
2. "Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalised and show them their closeness.
3. "Blessed are those who see God in every person and strive to help others also discover God.
4. "Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home.
5. "Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others.
6. "Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians."

**Teacher: Billy, you missed school yesterday.**

**Billy:** Well, to tell you the truth, I didn't miss school that much at all!

**Fred:** Today the teacher was yelling at me for something I didn't do.

**Mike:** What was that?

**Fred: My homework!**