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Associates Reflection

by Gisele

We Want to See Jesus

The gospel of that Beatitudes is one of my favorites. When listening to it, I hear the love and compassion in Jesus' voice for all gathered there. Even today, it reminds me that even on the darkest days, I am blessed. I feel Jesus' love and compassion. He never forgets me. He never forgets anyone of us.

Imagine being with Jesus as he speaks to the crowd that has gathered on the hillside. He is looking out at all the faces & listening to what is being said. As his Father's son, he shows his care & concern for the people gathered there by telling them that they are cared for and loved by God just as they are. He speaks to their souls and gives them hope that all will be well. Isn't this a message that we all want to hear, especially after the year that we have had?

This is a message we all need and want to hear but we don't have Jesus in our midst, speaking directly to us. Where then do we find Him? We find him within ourselves and he most certainly is there waiting for us to make contact. Our journey of faith is not a solo trip; Jesus is always by our side listening to our prayers and speaking to us from his heart. He knows all our deepest dreams and desires even if we don't speak them out loud. Are we at times disappointed because the message we hear is not the one we wanted? I imagine that many of the people on the hillside were disappointed when Jesus told them that they were blessed as they were. How can one be blessed when going through difficult times or mourning the loss of someone? How can we feel blessed when we have had our lives uprooted by the COVID-19 pandemic? It has been a difficult year in one way or another for all of us. We have all been impacted in some way, but have there been any blessings along the way?

There were blessings if we recall the heart of the Beatitudes – we are blessed when we depend on God rather than on ourselves, our talents or even our finances. Did you turn more to God in prayer this past year, seeking comfort? I certainly did. And I found blessings along the way when they were least expected. We are truly

happy and blessed when we look at the world through Jesus' eyes. It is in being true to ourselves that we are blessed by God.

It is true that we don't have the benefit of having Jesus physically here with us. But isn't it a greater blessing to believe and have faith even though we have not seen him? Think about that, we have not seen Jesus, but haven't we witnessed him in other people? Have we not seen him in the care and compassion of doctors and nurses, shelter and soup kitchen workers, caregivers, priests, sisters, the list goes on and on. Jesus lives on in each one of us, so that we see Him when we look at each other.

Are we blessed? There is no doubt in my mind that we are. As I said earlier, even on the darkest day, when all seems lost, a ray of light shines through and reminds me that Jesus is with me, embracing me with his love. I see Jesus looking back when I look out at all of you.