

All Saints November 5, 2017

Other Readings

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

Readings for study

1 John 3:1-3

Before: Beware the antichrists (Note that this is a letter written after/amid a church splitting)

- Love the Father has given
 - o A reminder that even in the midst of pain, what we have been given is all that we needed
 - o That love shapes us as God's children to love others
- Does not know us/did not know him
- *What we will be has not yet been revealed*
 - o Many things in 1 John 3 are about accepting the present reality
- We will be like him
 - o Probably means that we will be love rather than we will look like Jesus
- See him as he is
 - o We're still becoming something new rather than emulating what we remember about Jesus
- Purify themselves
 - o Purity here means no sinning

After: Love one another

Matthew 5:1-12

Before: Jesus calls disciples and heals

- Mountain
 - o Luke's Gospel has Jesus giving this speech on a plain
- Blessed
 - o Makarios, the same word means happy
 - o Margaret Aymer translates as "greatly honored"
 - o The word as translated means they are blessed or happy now, the following clause says why they will be happy later
- Poor in spirit -> kingdom of heaven
 - o In the beatitudes, most are not just future promises but include blessing/happiness in the present
 - o In the Gospel of Luke, it is just "blessed are the poor"
- Mourn -> comforted
- Meek -> inherit the earth
- Hunger and thirst for righteousness -> will be filled
- Merciful -> receive mercy
- Pure in heart -> see God
- Peacemakers -> called children of God
- Persecuted for righteousness' sake -> theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- When people revile you, persecute you, and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely -> reward is great in heaven

After: You are salt and light and further teachings

All Saints bullet points

- Nov. 1 for Western church, first Sunday after Pentecost for Eastern
- Originally each martyr would get their own festival, but under Diocletian martyrs were too numerous so they proscribed a single day – the Sunday after Pentecost (4th or 5th century)
- Moved to Nov. 1 in the 8th century
- R.C. church celebrates All Souls' Day afterward – for all the faithful departed
- All Hallows Eve (Halloween) is celebrated the day before (many churches protest this day because of its pagan influences)
 - o The tradition on this day is to mock evil and death (make them not scary)
 - o At one point both All Hallows Eve and All Saints day were banned not for paganism, but for being a Roman Catholic tradition
 - o Trick-or-treating can be traced back to the middle ages when poor people begged for “soul cakes” and when they received the food would pray for those departed souls