

REJOICE, FOR YOUR REWARD WILL BE GREAT IN HEAVEN...

We have arrived at the fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, and the Gospel of St Matthew presents us with the well-known Sermon on the Mount, also known as the Sermon of the Beatitudes.

Climbing the mountain is the first secret that Jesus teaches us to be happy, the true happiness that is founded not on the world, but on the encounter with God.

In the Bible, the mountain is that place of encounter with God, a place of revelation.

Moses received the tablets of the law on the mountain; Elijah, for his part, heard the voice of God on the mountaintop; now it is Jesus who, from the mountain, delivers this message to find true happiness.

The mountain will represent the search for peace in order to encounter God.

Jesus begins the Beatitudes with those whom the world rejects or despises, those who lack value in the eyes of society.

The Beatitudes do not describe those who are happy according to worldly standards, but rather those who have made room in their hearts for God and find their true happiness in Him.

To be poor in spirit is to humbly acknowledge that we are not self-sufficient; the poor in spirit are those who do not rely on their securities, their money, their prestige, or their image.

The Beatitudes are not a discourse for resigned Christians; they are an invitation to identify with Christ, as the first blessed one: meek, poor, and

merciful, who finds his reward in fulfilling the Father's will, knowing that it is the Heavenly Father who has the final say.

If we understand this invitation from Jesus to trust that God will have the final say, we will truly become blessed. Regarding this Gospel, St. Augustine comments that the Beatitudes allow God to make us a new creation. Just as we have been born in the flesh through these counsels to achieve happiness, we have a new birth in the spirit.

Let us ask the Virgin Mary, model of listening to the word of God, to be the one who guides us towards a true encounter with God.