

All three of this weekend's readings give us a roadmap to holiness. The Beatitudes are attitudes that put us in the right frame of mind to reach out for holiness. The first Beatitude, "Blessed are the poor in spirit", has nothing to do with earthly wealth, but rather, dependence on God. That stands in stark contrast to the way the world judges success, our culture believes in independence, God requires radical dependence. We are called to live in the world, but not to espouse its values. How do we balance between these two contradictory goals? Am I living a life of dependence on God, or do I more often rely on my strength or wealth? These are all questions we could ask ourselves in prayer.

We read in our second reading that God uses our weakness as an opportunity for His glory and not for our own. I like the idea that God uses us as instruments not because we are perfect, but rather nobody can boast before God. When reflecting on our own weaknesses, we have an opportunity to work on the humility that is cited in our first reading as a paramount characteristic of His faithful children.

We might want to consider to focus in our prayer this week, one Beatitude a day. Research the Beatitude, learn its subtle intricacies and its application to your life and its challenges it has for you. Knowing that every one of the eight Beatitudes is necessary to work on, to refine our nature by holy habits.

May the Love, Peace and Grace of God be with you. Fr. Adam