

It is never late to plan your summer vacations. This past week I was doing just that planning my vacations for the summer. And each summer I love to go to my Aunts Shore house. But What I love about her house is she has a beautiful yard that has a nice indoor patio and an outside patio with a nice fire pit and it's so nice to sit out there and relax. It has a little stream that leads into the bay. Along the stream is her garden where she loves to grow fruit and vegetables. what is so neat is my aunt depends on the water which is right next to her garden to continue to give these plants their nutrients and growth. The leaves stay green if there is a drought and it shows no distress and still bears fruit.

In the first reading, the prophet Jeremiah is proclaiming Blessed is the one who trust in the Lord whose hope is in the Lord. Do you have that Hope and trust in the Lord? Because if you don't have that trust or hope you are not that tree on that side of the stream staying green and doesn't fear the heat. Instead you become that bush who lay barren in the desert. Because the stream of water is the stream of life. And its Christ who is the stream of life and gives us those nutrients for us to bear fruit to live as disciples. It is when we have that trust and hope in the Lord we are rejoicing in his name. We are filled with great joy. Listen to the wonderful fruits he has given to the disciples to live out in their lives in this gospel reading of Luke, The Beatitudes. Now I am calling these beatitudes fruits because they allow us to live a life that is fruitful. And what is unique the 8 Beatitudes are found in the Gospel of Matthew but Luke's Discourse parallels to Matthew's Sermon on the Mount. Matthew and Luke both begin with a set of Beatitudes but Luke only takes four of the eight and is immediately followed by a corresponding set of woes. And in this Gospel of Luke the message of Christ is one of humility, charity and brotherly love. Christ takes the time to teach of the transformation of the inner person, and it's not given to us in a negative way but instead a positive view. Because these virtues which we are given ultimately leads us to our heavenly reward. For this, Love is the greatest virtue and becomes the motivation of all Christians especially since the Beatitudes promise us salvation and provides a way of life which can bring us peace thru all the struggles involving those tribulations and trials or even just hurdles we may have in our lives.

And therefore, Christ reaches out to his disciples on the Plain and says "Blessed" which means a favor or gift bestowed by God, there bringing happiness to the individual. And what does Christ say: blessed are you, blessed are the poor, blessed are the hungry, those are weeping, blessed are those who hate you. Remembering the Lord is pointing out the trials you and I may endure but its Christ who at the end will be bring great joy in the place of our trials saying "the Kingdom is ours and our reward is great in heaven. Bringing that misery to a fulfillment of joyful beatitude in our lives. So, put your trust into the heart of Christ, allow him to be that living stream of water nurturing the roots of the tree allowing it to bear fruit so it can be fruitful. Because that tree is You, allow Christ to nurture you and become fruitful in the Beatitudes to overcome all the trial and miseries we may have and allow it to continue to grow with the hope and trust in the Lord. Because a person learns to live the Beatitudes by practicing, with the aid of God's grace, with Faith Hope and love and the moral virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance and by being empowered by the Holy spirit's gifts, so that the fruits of the Spirit, such as love, joy and peace become manifested in our own lives and allow it to grow fruitful by the living stream of Water of Christ.