

PODCAST START:

Brian G. Murphy: Welcome to the Queer Theology Podcast.

Fr. Shay Kearns: Where each episode we take a queer look at the week's lectionary readings. We're the co-founders of QueerTheology.com and the hosts for this podcast. I'm Father Shay Kearns.

Brian G. Murphy: And I'm Brian G. Murphy.

Hello, Hello, hello and welcome back to another episode of the Queer Theology Podcast, today we're taking a look at the lectionary readings for Sunday February 17th, we're gonna take a look at Luke 6:17 through 26. We're gonna read to you now from the contemporary English version.

"Jesus and his apostles went down from the mountain and came to some flat level ground. Many other disciples were there to meet him, large crowds of people from all over Judea, Jerusalem and the coastal cities of Tyre and Sideon were there too. These people had come to listen to Jesus and to be healed of their diseases. All who were troubled by evil spirits were also healed. Everyone was trying to touch Jesus because power was going out from him and healing them all. Jesus looked at his disciples and said, God will bless you people who are poor, his kingdom belongs to you. God will bless you hungry people, you will have plenty to eat. God will bless you people who are crying, you will laugh. God will bless you when others hate you and won't have anything to do with you. God will bless you when people insult you and say cruel things about you, all because you are a follower of the son of man. Long ago your own people did these same things to the prophets, so when this happens to you be happy and jump for joy. You will have a great reward in Heaven."

"But you rich people are in for trouble, you already had an easy. You well, fat people are in trouble, you will go hungry. You people who are laughing now are in for trouble, you are going to cry and weep. You are in for trouble when everyone

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says good things about you, that is what your own people said about those prophets who told lies."

Brian G. Murphy: Okay Shay, what do you make of this passage?

Fr. Shay Kearns: I really love this version because it feels, this is a common passage, we've heard this a lot. Usually from Matthew's Gospel, and I love this version cuts away some of the flowery language, I guess. It just says it really straight, so I love this juxtaposition between the people that God is going to bless and the people that are in for trouble. I think so often growing up I heard these blessings as they were kind of nebulous, you're blessed if these things happen but it's kind of vague as to what those things actually mean. I feel like version is so clear in saying that Jesus and God are on the side of the people who are hungry, who are poor and who are oppressed. It's just a very clear message of this is who God is here for. You folks that already have a lot of money, who are well fed, who are feeling great while living in an occupied land. That probably says something about the way that you're complicit in these systems of oppression, that's not what Jesus's ministry is about.

Again, I think we talk about this all the time that the Bible is so clear about social justice being not just a side note on Jesus's mission, but the root of it and the reason that he came. Again, I think that this passage is so clear in that and I love this version of it. What about you?

Brian G. Murphy: I think that we could have a whole episode diving into what does Jesus mean or what might he be meaning when he talks about rewards in Heaven or the kingdom of God, things like that. Here it says you will have a great reward in Heaven, but I think what sticks out for me is before that is that part about blessings. It's not nebulous blessings, it's not spiritual blessings, it's very specific responses to physical needs. You will have plenty to eat, you will laugh, so we see that God's vision for us is that we are well fed, and we're all laughing and celebrating and joyous. That's a good rule to keep in mind as we try and sift through what is the Christian

response look like to acts, or what is Christian sexual ethics look like. How should we be?

Brian G. Murphy: God wants people to thrive, and that it's like how many different ways can the prophet say it? How many different ways can Jesus say it? How many different ways can even the early writers of the Christian scriptures say it? There's definitely this through line of thriving, and but not thriving at other's expense. That if you're well fed because you're collaborating with the occupiers and the Empires, that's not God's will. It's not that you should be thriving at the cost of others, but that we should all be thriving. Our salvation is bound up together.

I think this could so easily be a blessing for queer people who statistically are more likely to live in poverty, experience homelessness, experience mental health complications. Like bless you people who are poor for his kingdom belongs to you. Bless you who are hungry you'll have plenty to eat. Bless you people who are crying you will laugh. Others hate you and won't have anything to do with you, God how many queer people have been ostracized by their friends or their family or the churches. To say no God's blessing is with us, and not with those who have shunned us. It's such an important and powerful message.

The Queer Theology Podcast is just one of many things we do at QueerTheology.com, which provides resources, community and inspiration for LGBTQ Christians and straight, cisgender supporters.

Fr. Shay Kearns: To dive into more of the action, visit us at QueerTheology.com. You can also connect with us online, on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, and Instagram.

Brian G. Murphy: We'll see you next week.

PODCAST END

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