

June 9, 2008  
Monday of the Tenth Week in Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

1 Kings 17:1-6

Psalms 121:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

Matthew 5:1-12

*He began to teach them, saying :Blessed are....*

It was the word *teach* that caught me today. Usually, I am immediately drawn to one of the beatitudes, reflecting on what it means to live that particular virtue. But, not today. A conversation with one of grand daughters continues to linger with me. It was in response to the gospel about building our house on sand or rock. I asked her what she was building her house on—sand or rock. She said that she thought it was sand and then went on to tell me that she chose sand because she liked the beach. I offered the thought that the sand on the beach washes away. From her response, it was clear she had not considered this fact. Nor did I, when I was twice her age. As a young adult, while I was active in practicing my faith and participating in our parish, I did not get the full message of today's gospel—that we are to empty our selves of our man-made ways of viewing the world, and take on God's way—totally. I did not get the message of total surrender to a new way of thinking and believing and living. The words of the liturgy immediately following the Lord's Prayer really hit me yesterday: "...that the peace and unity of your kingdom my be ours..." The beatitudes that Jesus teaches us in today's gospel are a way of living that take us to this peace and unity. How many of us really want to mourn or be hungry and thirsty, or even poor in spirit. On the one hand, we have the opportunity to live in a big house, drive an expensive car, have a prestigious position, travel, and the like, while on the other hand, we are asked to dedicate our lives to serving the needs of the poor, upholding the rights of the oppressed, preserving the world we have been given, and putting an end to violence and injustice in our hearts, our families, our communities, and our world. Being a Catholic was much easier for me in the years of my young adulthood because then I could do good deeds and believe that I was following Christ. Today, I know it is so much more and yet still beyond my total understanding. The invitation I hear in today's gospel is to pay attention more intently to the places in my heart that still hang on to the ways.

*An age is called Dark, not because the light fails to shine, but because people  
refuse to see it.*

~James Michener☐