

GOSPEL PEARLS

Do you trust in human security or in Providence?

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Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon. Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: 'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for

then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets. 'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep. 'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.' (Luke 6, 17.20-26)

The beatitudes announced by Jesus have a common denominator, the loss of all human consolations and security. Those who decide, day by day, to follow Jesus must be constantly willing to lose everything in order to have their reward in the afterlife. To follow Jesus, in other words, it is necessary to love Him above everything and everyone, without trusting too much in human security. Who do you place absolute trust in? Is it in Jesus and in His Providence or in your own abilities, in your current account, in earthly friendships, in relatives, in the Government and in the things you own?