



Reflection from Deacon Ross Beaudoin

On Monday we celebrate Valentines Day.

Love is in the air, we are told. Maybe that will warm our hearts (though our unusually warm February temperatures have been helping!).

“From my heart.” “Our hearts are one.” “You are close to my heart.” Candy hearts have all the right words.... But the word of the heart is *love*. “I ♥ you.”

Jesus was all heart, all love. From the moment of his coming among us to the moment of his death and resurrection, Jesus does everything for love for us.

In the gospel selection for this Sunday, Luke 6:17, 20-26, we find Jesus bringing a message of love filled with hope. Jesus had just called the twelve apostles. They were an unusual mix of personalities. Among them was even one who would betray Jesus. But these were the ones with whom Jesus would share the message he has for the world

Jesus came down from the mountain where he had prayed and chosen his apostles. He stopped at a level stretch. There a large crowd was gathered: people from Jerusalem, Judea and areas beyond – and also from gentile cities like Tyre and Sidon. People had gathered to hear Jesus and to be healed of their diseases and the unwelcome spirits that bothered them.

Jesus addressed the disciples and the people. These are the ones that Jesus *had in his heart* that very important day: “Blest are you poor;” “Blest are you who hunger;” “Blest are you who are weeping,” “Blest are you when people hate you, when they exclude and insult you...on account of the Son of Man...”

Crowds of people came to Jesus and it was those who were hurting, who were on the margins, who were struggling that captured Jesus’ attention. Those would find healing and blessing for their lives.

The apostles were instructed that day. We are instructed as well. If we have the heart of Jesus, we will also find those who are hurting, on the margins, struggling and bring them the *love* and *healing* of Jesus, which he has given to us.

Then we will indeed have a very happy Valentines ♥♥ Day.

~ Peace,
Deacon Ross