

**Commentary on the Gospel for Sun, Jan 29th 2023**

**Read:** Zephaniah promises the exiles of Israel that they will again find peace and contentment because of the Lord’s faithfulness. Paul reminds his readers that God does not choose only the wise and the powerful. Instead, he chooses the weak and the poor, giving them strength and wisdom in Christ. In the Gospel. Jesus begins his Sermon on the Mount by teaching that those considered less fortunate in the eyes of the world will be blessed immeasurably by God.

**Reflect:** Our God is a God of surprises. Time and again Scripture makes it clear that God judges by standards very different than those of the world. As the prophet Isaiah taught, God’s ways are not our ways.

In our celebrity-driven culture, people seek fame, wealth, and power. People strive for and celebrate momentary notoriety as viral sensations. Those who fail to meet the world’s standards are ignored, despised, or blamed for their situations.

But Jesus teaches a different way. He raises up those who are humble. poor, in mourning, and persecuted, promising that they will find joy in God.

**Pray:** Loving God, please help me to see the world and its people through your eyes.

**Act:** Log off of social media for one day and use the time for prayer or service.

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Vitoria Sanchez - Madrid Teacher and Mary Elizabeth Sperry - Bible Diary 2023 - Claretian Communications Foundation, Inc.