

Matt Mullin & Adelayda Herrejón

The story of Matt and Addy is a big story involving two countries, mega-companies, and dramatic decisions. It is also a small story about meeting online, dating in a parked car, and buying a home in a midwestern city. They have discovered the bigness of love inside the smallness of a close relationship. They've even chosen to set their wedding inside a big cathedral with a small group in attendance, live-streamed so that anyone in the wide world may watch from the privacy of their home.

When Jesus began his public ministry, he attracted big crowds, but he drew disciples one by one. Matthew's gospel records Jesus giving five major discourses, beginning with the Sermon on the Mount. He gave that speech to a large crowd, but representing a fraction of the population; as Lord of the universe in a small corner of the world; the eternal God acting in a sliver of time. Jesus' message, striking themes both large and intimate, echoes across the centuries to our hearts on this day, in this cathedral, for this wedding of this couple.

Jesus praised the poor in spirit—those who may have had means but harbored a sense of humility and simplicity. He praised those who mourn because their friends and their faith would comfort them. He praised the meek, those who could have made a big deal out of themselves but did not. He praised those whose true hunger and thirst was not for food and drink but for righteousness, for a world where people do the right thing. He praised the merciful, those who reached within the reserve of their resources and the well of their feelings to care for those in material and emotional need. He praised the clean of heart, those who practiced chastity even when the world permitted and encouraged them to seek personal pleasure rather than the interior discipline that manifests true love. He praised peacemakers, a livelihood to be practiced within families and between nations. And he praised those persecuted for the sake of righteousness because they gladly endure suffering for the sake of a greater good.

In the Beatitudes Jesus gave a blueprint for developing Christian discipleship. By naming the elements of a virtuous life, he encouraged those who already possessed these principles, even as he challenged others to adopt them.

Matt and Addy chose this passage for their wedding Mass, and it reveals how they view this day. It is an important day not just for the two of them, for they see beyond the smallness of that vision into the greatness of the call of Christ. Jesus expected his disciples to love one another in their tiny community, and to make an impact on the entire world.

Addy and Matt, thank you for including us into the wonderful world of your love and your faith. Christ binds you together as one today so that as married disciples, you may live out these virtues for the sake of each other and for people around the world. You made many difficult but beautiful decisions to get to this day. As you pledge your consent, in the most beautiful decision of all, you prepare yourselves for a lifetime of mutual love, a lifetime of discipleship, a lifetime of beatitude.

Saturday, October 8, 2022