

The Upside-Down Nature of Jesus' Disciples

April 6, 2025 ▪ Cal Robertson

Who is "Blessed"?

Who is "Woeful"?

Luke 6:20-26

²⁰ And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

²² "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ "Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

"Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

²⁶ "Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets. (ESV)

Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions

Open: Share about something from the past week that either felt like a blessing or a difficulty.

Read & Discuss: Luke 6:20-26

1. Jesus begins by addressing the "poor," "hungry," and "weeping" (v. 20-21). What is Jesus highlighting about the nature of God's kingdom by starting with these groups of people? How do you think Jesus is attempting to challenge cultural assumptions about success and blessing?
2. In what ways do you think the blessing for Jesus' followers who are "poor," "hungry," or who "weep" will come—Will it be a physical or a spiritual blessing? Explain.
3. In verses 22-23, Jesus speaks of persecution. How does the promise of "great reward in heaven" help those facing hardship? How can believers rejoice in the hope of Christ while still authentically acknowledging difficulty and hardship?
4. Verses 24-26 contain "woes" for the rich, the full, those who laugh now, and those who are well spoken of. It seems unlikely that Jesus would be speaking against anyone who has money, is ever full, ever laughs, or is ever spoken well of. So, who is Jesus speaking of in these verses? How do you interpret these "woes"—Are they guaranteed promises, general warnings, or something else?
5. Do you think living a life focused on God always involves giving up worldly comfort? Why or why not? How can we ensure we are not putting our trust in worldly comfort or allowing it to become a distraction from the things of God?
6. Consider the contrast between the "blessed" and those worthy of "woe." What does this passage reveal about Jesus' values and priorities for His people? If you were discipling a newer believer, what would you say to that person from this passage about what we should pursue in life?
7. Reflect on the phrase "for so their fathers did to the prophets" (v. 23) and "for so their fathers did to the false prophets" (v. 26). What does this suggest about how the world often treats those who speak God's truth?

Apply: What's one thing you find challenging or comforting from this passage? Why? How can we practically live out these beatitudes in our daily lives and interactions with others?

Pray: Pray that we will remain humble and focused on Christ's values, not the world's enticements.