

Study of Luke Ch. 6

Blessed

Opening

Pray. *You start off with prayer. Ask for God to be in your conversation and to increase faith through this time.*

Would you live in poverty for 5 years if it meant never having need again? Would you suffer pain for a year if it meant never hurting again? Would you be hated through childhood if it meant you would never be hated again? Would you walk everywhere you went for 10 years if it meant you could be carried any time you wanted to be for the rest of your life? Why or why not?

Have you ever had a time where you went through something hard, difficult, or painful and afterward realized a great blessing that came from it? (*Examples: Had a car accident and realized the depth of God's protection, or you were in the hospital and realized that someone you did not know cared about you came to visit you?*)

Study

This section of Luke is called the Beatitudes. Longer versions of it can be found in Matthew or Mark. Beatitude means great blessings. The beatitudes kick off a series of sermons Jesus taught the great crowds. These messages were intended to help listeners understand life in the kingdom of God. Until this point, people believed the kingdom of God was only Israel. This was an incomplete picture of God's kingdom. Jesus reveals the greater understanding of God's kingdom which is centered around His blessings and love. Before we look at Jesus' words, what is a blessing?

Let's look closer at Jesus' words.

Read [Luke 6:17-26](#).

There are three pieces to this account: Context in vs. 17-19; Blessing in vs. 20-23; and Warning in vs. 24-26. What stands out to you from each part of this account?

Look at the list of blessings in the second section. What conditions does Jesus speak about?

These conditions do not sound fun. Jesus points to a contrast between this world and the Kingdom of God. We see in the first section that the people coming to Jesus were suffering and hurting. Jesus called us as disciples to care for the hurting and lost of the world. This job can become overwhelming to us, especially when we try to meet these needs ourselves.

Jesus changes His disciple's thinking in the second section. While the worldly conditions are not what we like, Jesus reminds us that because of the work He will do on the cross, the blessings of the Kingdom of God can be received.

What blessings do you receive by receiving the Kingdom of God?

What blessings do you receive from being hungry or from weeping?

What rewards will we receive in heaven from living as a disciple?

It can be difficult to remember God's blessings in the midst of these conditions. In fact, when we don't remember God's blessings or see these blessings as our prize, we seek things in the world instead. In the third part of this reading, Jesus gives woes or warnings. What is Jesus' warning against?

These warnings are for people who seek these things selfishly or in a way that takes their reward now. Jesus warns us because a life lived seeking the reward on earth does not live for the reward in heaven.

In what ways do you live for a reward here on earth instead of the blessings of the Kingdom of God?

Mark of a Disciple: Values the Kingdom of God

There is a saying that states there are two types of people: those who work for their reward and those who receive their reward. It sounds weird to think that the people who work for their reward never get it but the idea is that we spend so much time trying to get our reward that we never have the time to enjoy it, experience it, or receive it.

As a disciple, we know that we are called to work. As disciples though, we work for God and not the blessing. When we work for God, our hands are open to receive God's blessings to us. When we work for the reward, we never receive it because we can never have enough of it, or because we are afraid of losing it.

How do you live your life? Do you spend all your time trying to get the reward now or are you working for God? Working for the reward now causes us to make that reward our god/idol and we may wander and stray from living out our faith. When we work for God, the rewards are given to us by God.

What idols do you have? How can you let go of those idols so that you may live for God more fully?

Prayer Time

Take prayer requests. Have everyone write them down so that each day you may pray for one another. Then, pray for each other before you close.

Are there any fears or concerns around the pandemic or recent events? Please be sensitive to each other and listen. Respond with encouragement from God's Word.