



Life Guide applying God's Word to life

Jesus Blesses His Disciples February 17, 2019

(Luke 6:17-26)

¹⁷ He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸ who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, ¹⁹ and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. ²⁰ Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²² Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets. ²⁴ But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. ²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶ Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets."

1. What kind of hardships did the crowd bring to Jesus? Do people in 2019 bring similar hardships to Jesus or are ours different?
2. How do you picture the scene when everyone was trying to touch Jesus. Describe the scene after Jesus healed everyone. What would you be thinking if you were one of Jesus' disciples?
3. Re-read v. 20-26. How would those words influence the crowd you described in question 2? How would they influence the disciples?
4. In most of Jesus blessings, he points to a blessing in the future. How do present hardships help us in our earthly future? How do they help us in our eternal future? Which one is more important?

5. **Agree or Disagree:** Jesus teaches that poor people have it better than rich people?
6. Pretend the person next to you is 7 years old. He/she asks what vv. 20-23 mean. How would you explain it to them?
7. Jesus says you are (currently) blessed because of what you will (in the future) be. What are some ways Jesus' promises for the future influence your life right now? (Hint: How would your life right now be different if you didn't have Jesus' promises?)
8. What is Jesus trying to do to the hearts of his disciples? (In other words: What does Jesus hope will be different after his sermon?)
9. V. 20-23 describe blessings for people who are poor, hungry, weeping, and hated. Pastor Wordell said that these describe Jesus life. Back up his assertion with examples from Jesus life.
10. In baptism, and by faith, we are united with Christ. His life is ours. How does a Christ-centered reading of this passage redefine the way we relate to Jesus?
11. What hardship is facing you? How does it redefine what it means to be blessed? How does it redefine your relationship with Jesus?