

LUKE 6:20-36 *The Beatitudes, Part 1*

INTRODUCTION

Following Jesus wasn't (and isn't) easy. Many of His disciples were poor and hungry. They were disliked and treated meanly for following and serving Him. But Jesus comforts them with the hope that God will bless and reward those who trust Him, and love others the way Jesus loves. He also warns against trusting in things like money, comfort, and what other people think of them rather than trusting God.

DISCUSSION

Would you rather be rich, full and happy, or poor, hungry and sad? Why?

EXPLANATION

- What does it mean to be “blessed”? *It's the joy of knowing that God is taking care of you, and will take care of you in the future, even when things seem bad.*
- What does “woe” mean? *It's a warning, and a call to repentance- to turn away from wrong things, and turn back to God.*
- Who is blessed? Who is warned? *Blessed: poor, hungry, those who weep, those hated for Jesus' name. Warned: rich, full, those who laugh now, those who care about being popular.*
- Who does Jesus mean by “you who laugh now” in verse 25? *He doesn't mean any who is happy, but people who don't care about God or people in need.*
- How are Christians supposed to treat people Jesus refers to as “enemies” in verses 27-31? *Verse 31: we're supposed to treat them the way we would like to be treated- we're supposed to love them like Jesus loves.*
- Why are we supposed to treat them that way according to verses 35-36? *God is kind to people who don't deserve it and are evil. By behaving like God does, we show that we belong to Him.*

APPLICATION

When we humbly follow Jesus and trust God to meet our needs, He promises to take care of us now, and reward us in heaven. When we show the love of Jesus, especially to people who hate us and are mean to us because we're Christians, it shows that we belong to God. When are you tempted to trust in things like money, or what people think about you, rather than trusting God? Think about how you would like to be treated. Are you treating other people that way- especially people who don't deserve it? What are some ways you can show the love of Jesus to those people?

Memory VERSE

Luke 6:36- “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” (ESV)