

Luke 6 pt 3 vs. 20-26 (NIV)

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 people 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 ancestors 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 everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

1. Scholars are divided as to whether this passage is a parallel passage to Matthew 5,6,7
 - a) Some believe It’s an abridged version
 - b) Others believe it’s a similar sermon at a different time
2. Jesus selected His 12 Apostles and ministers to the multitudes
3. Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples and begins to describe those that are blessed, and those that are to be pitied
4. Heaven's perspective on the blessed
5. We may be surprised that heaven’s perspective and the world’s perspective are polar opposites.
6. This is how I should be living and is a guide to see if I’m on the right track
7. If I’m not a believer, this teaching is to drive me to the cross
8. Jesus lifts his eyes and speaks to His disciples

I. Attributes of a disciple: Blessed

I. Blessed:

A. The one who spoke the world into existence is speaking to His disciples.

1. **Makarios**; fortunate, well off, supremely blest: happy (not circumstantial)
2. A state of well being intended for God's children
3. The Jewish mind associated blessing with long life, wealth, healthy families, barns that were full and enemies that were defeated
4. This is during the infancy stage, where everything was physical
5. When Jesus arrives, the infancy stage ends and it's time for maturity
 - a. Time for the mind and heart of God
6. **Jesus**: Blessed are you poor, hungry, sorrowful & when people hate you for my sake
 - a. **Psalm 144:15** Happy is the people who's God is the Lord
 - b. **Psalm 32** Happy is the man who's sins are forgiven
7. It's a character word because its description of God
 - a. **Psalm 68:35**, Blessed be God
 - b. **Psalm 72:18** Blessed be the Lord God...
 - c. **1 Tim 1:11** according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God...

B. This state of being blessed is true of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

C. Only those who are saved can experience this kind of blessing

1. **2nd Peter 1:4** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.
2. So we are partakers of the divine nature of God
3. **A disciple is one who is learning from & becoming like his teacher**

D. The outline is not what the world would consider happiness. It's exactly the opposite.

1. **World system:** 1st step to happiness is...be assertive, go for the gusto, get all you can get...
2. If that were the case, then the one who had an abundance of these things:
 - a. Solomon would have been happy.
 - b. He had more gold and silver than any other king in Israel's history
 - c. He had God given wisdom and was praised for it
 - d. Instead, he said, "vanity (empty)"

E. The core of man longs for something much more meaningful than the material

1. **We crave the spiritual**
 - a. **Because at our core, each of us is a spirit**

2. Just as you can't fill a physical need with a spiritual substance, you can't fill a spiritual need with the physical

3. **Blessed are the poor.**
 - a. This doesn't really sound too happy
 - b. What does this have to do with the kingdom of God?
 - c. Why are those who are hungry have special favor with God?
 - d. What does sorrowing have to do with being blessed?

1. When we have less or nothing, we are prime candidates for the gospel
 - a. We recognize our need and inability to make it without God

- b. The poor realize their need and reliance on another, without which, they are doomed
- c. You find many cases where a person in need is broken and humble
 - A. When I'm in need, I recognize my dependence on another, without which, I'm in real trouble.
 - a. This is the beginning of the gospel.
 - b. Recognizing my absolute dependence on another,
 - i. I need God to help
 - ii. I cry out to God
 - iii. He hears the cry of the sincere and humble
 - B. So when the gospel is preached to the poor, it's easier for them to understand and accept
 - C. Lets clarify that the amount of money I have or not have will not secure heaven for me
 - D. Net worth is no guarantee of heaven
 - E. God doesn't give salvation to people because they're deprived economically and materially. He's talking about [a state of my heart]... The people that are blessed are people who understand their spiritual poverty. They understand the bankrupt condition of their soul. They understand that they have absolutely no resources with which to buy God's favor...(MacArthur)
 - F. Offering the gospel to someone who doesn't see his bankrupt state is challenging because they are deceived by their money or social standing or healthy bodies...

- G. A true disciple can see his own poverty and may face possible times of literal hunger, sorrow and rejection for Christ's sake
- H. Even if they don't face it in a literal sense, it becomes an attitude of the heart
 - a. **Gen 18 Abram**, dust and ashes
 - b. **Gen 32:10** Jacob, I am unworthy of all the kindness and faithfulness you have shown your servant.
 - c. **David**: Who am I and what is my father's house?
 - d. **Luke 18**, tax collector who said "have mercy on me"
 - e. **John the Baptist**: I am not worthy to untie his shoes

2. **Jesus is addressing them from the perspective of what many would experience**

- A. This is what His followers should expect: Poverty, hunger, sorrow and rejection... for Jesus' sake
 - a. Those who are rejected because they're weird are on their own
- B. Is this a pep talk to begin discipleship with His followers?
 - a. "As my disciples you will be poor, hungry, sorrowful & rejected"
 - i. **This is typical of Jesus**
 - ii. **To present you with the shocking truth in the beginning and the glorious reward at the end**
 - iii. **To be my disciple, follow me, take up your cross daily...**
- C. The disciples were not poor, some were well off
- D. So what does Jesus mean?
- E. It's referring to what many will soon face as a result of their faith.

- F. Many were rejected by their families, lost their jobs, were confiscated by the authorities as a result of their faith
- G. The **temple** in Jerusalem was vast and required multitudes of employees who made their living by working there
- H. When many got saved, they lost those jobs as part of the persecution against the church
- I. The Apostle Paul, as part of his ministry was collecting money for the needy believers in Jerusalem
- J. And Paul tells Timothy, that all those who live godly will suffer persecution

K. The reason: their association with Jesus

- L. This sermon must have been such an encouragement to those early believers
 - a. It's also an encouragement for every disciple following Jesus who is going through some kind of hard time because of their faith

M. The idea that those who follow Jesus will live in luxury & ease is false.

- a. Paul said I learned to be abased and to abound
 - b. Many of the disciples then suffered severe persecution
3. **Hebrews 11:36** and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated 38 (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

4. Which part of that is real happiness?
 - a. By the world's standards, it isn't.
 - b. By God's standards, He calls you blessed
5. Ask any one of those heroes of the faith if they'd do it any other way
 - a. The response would be, God knows best
 - a. **God never left me**
 - b. This is joy
 - c. **I saw Him best during those hard times**
 - d. This is being blessed
6. Be prepared to have things taken from you; leave it behind
7. Paul and Silas in prison
 - a. They worship and an earthquake happens – glorious
8. Paul is on a ship for many days
 - a. Worship again Paul, maybe another miracle will happen
 - b. "I'm not controlling this journey, I'm believing and waiting on God"
9. This is how to have real and lasting happiness. Not happy based on exterior factors, but a lasting God kind of joy
10. Approved by God happiness and having a life of impact and purpose.
11. If because of your association with Christ, then rejoice because a reward is coming your way in heaven
12. True happiness begins when we stop looking to ourselves and to the Master
 - a. Also, when you realize that this world is not your home
 - a. We're simply passing through

i. None of it belongs to us

13. This goes against the grain of the natural man

14. Believers in the O.T & N.T lived it.

a. **Heb 11:24** By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt

15. Believers in the N.T

a. **Acts 4:2** being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they laid hands on them, and put *them* in custody...

16. **Yours is the kingdom of heaven** is saying that living content in difficult circumstances shows where your faith is

a. Brian Bell: Jesus is not saying, "Live like this in order to be saved." He's saying, "Live like this **because** you are saved"

17. This is supposed to drive the disciples to Jesus' feet saying, HELP

a. We can't possibly do this

a. That's the entire point and a great place to start

18. Jesus reveals the finished product

a. Let me take you on a journey and transform your life

b. I'll teach you how to live content like those who lived it before you

1. To those who reject this seemingly difficult way of life:

a) Woe to you who are rich, full, laugh, when all speak well of you

2. Reliance on self, health and wealth is what brings the woe.
 - a) These are all temporary things that will die, it all goes back in the box.

3. One day you will stand before Christ and give account of your life
 - a) Did I run from the will of God to avoid temporary discomfort?

 - b) If so, I'm grasping the wind

 - c) In Your presence is the fullness of joy...