

Luke 6 - Blessed and Cursed

- ↪ **Luke 6:20-26**; Moving on from our study of the apostles, we move right into one of Jesus' better-known teachings: the beatitudes.
- ✓ Matt. Records 8 beatitudes whereas Luke writes down only 4.
 - ✓ Understand that in both cases they are giving you condensed versions of what was actually said.
 - ✓ Matthew writes the most, nevertheless, he writes down only a ten- and half-minute sermon; do you think that Jesus only preached for 10.5 minutes?
 - ✓ As preacher and teacher, I can tell you for sure that He used illustrations and He repeated and restated His points several times throughout.
 - ✓ This is probably from the same sermon, but a restatement in the case of Luke that Jesus made to make a slightly different point of application.
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1. Luke 6:20-26

- ✓ This is the complete opposite of conventional thinking and wisdom both then and now.
 - ✓ If I'm crying I'm blessed and laughing I'm cursed, surely He didn't mean that?
 - ✓ Yes, He did, but maybe not in the exact way that you are taking it.
 - ✓ When He spoke about His Kingdom, or Salvation He spoke with the same unassailable, unalterable authority as He did when He created the world.
 - ✓ Jesus' teachings shatter, both then and now, all of man's foundational thinking
 - ✓ Most of the world still rejects His teachings.
 - ✓ To the average person, this is a crazy teaching: since when were poverty, hunger, sorrow, and rejection a blessing?
 - ✓ Since when were riches, satisfaction, happiness, and popularity curses?
 - ✓ That is precisely the point; the world and its thinking is exactly opposite of the truth.
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2. Are you blessed or are you cursed?

- ✓ Understand that these are not wishes or prayers, "I pray you'd bless the poor and curse the rich" -No.
 - ✓ How can this be? The desperate are blessed and the self-sufficient are cursed.
 - ✓ The desperate cry out to God and they are blessed for it
 - ✓ The self-sufficient do not cry out to God and they are cursed for it.
 - ✓ These are just the excuses that our fallen hearts use to keep us from God that make these things curses
 - ✓ For the desperate, there is blessings, but for self-sufficient there is cursing.
 - ✓ You have been redeemed or you have not been redeemed; child of God or a child of Satan, blessed or cursed, if heaven's not your home then hell is.
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3. The Blessings and Curses.

- ✓ The Blessing of Poverty, poverty itself is not necessarily a blessing, it's the spirit of poverty that puts us in the position of blessing.
- ✓ **Matthew 5:3**, God doesn't bless people just because they are poor—all poor people aren't going to heaven, it's the spiritual poverty that is blessed.
- ✓ When people understand they are spiritually bankrupt, there is nothing that can keep them from being blessed.
- ✓ The word from poverty is the worst kind of poverty there is: this word literally means to cringe.
- ✓ This true for all of us, but what isn't true for all of us is that we don't all think that its true for us. Only those who think that way are blessed.
- ✓ Blessed are not those who think they are spiritually rich—"I'm a good person, I'm better than most," this is the thinking of the cursed.
- ✓ The Blessing of Hunger – As opposed to being Satisfied—the satisfied are cursed—not talking about physical food.
- ✓ Matthew records "hunger and thirst for righteousness" – who doesn't hunger and thirst for that? Those that don't want it, those that think they already have it—they are cursed.
- ✓ The Blessing of Weeping, it's hard to be happy when you realize you're a cringing beggar who is starved for righteousness.
- ✓ **Luke 4:18**; Laugh is the laugh of the forgiven, of the free, the unburdened.
- ✓ Those who laugh now think they have no need of those things.
- ✓ The Blessing of Rejection – this one is last in order because it requires the previous three to be true before it can be true.
- ✓ Follow the sequence: You've been brought from spiritual poverty to riches, hunger to satisfaction, sorrow to laughter – your life has changed and its evident.
- ✓ This fourth one is how the world now perceives you: sort of a mark that Heaven blesses you is that the world rejects you.
- ✓ Understand: the world doesn't think right—What are they going to do with those who understand and follow the truth?
- ✓ **Luke 9:16**, Are they actually wolves? No, they are sheep-- dumb, helpless, needy, but they don't want to believe it, so they vilify those who do.
- ✓ **John 15:18**, rejoice!
- ✓ **Colossians 1:24**, every insult and persecution that comes to me was intended for Christ—they still hate and would kill Him again given the chance.
