

Following the Jesus Way
Week 3: Jesus' Upside Down Kingdom
Luke 6:17-26

Ice breaker:

Where have you seen God at work this week?

Share any stories of things you are thankful for, stories of where you have seen God at work this week or answers to prayer.

Read Luke 6:17-26

Context:

- Luke 6:17-26 is part of what is often called The Sermon on the Plain (similar to the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew). Jesus addresses a large crowd of His disciples and others from various regions. The passage contains both blessings ("beatitudes") and woes, contrasting the values of God's kingdom with the values of the world.
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General Overview:

1. Who were the people gathered to hear Jesus, and why were they following Him (vv. 17-19)?
 2. What can we learn from the fact that people sought both Jesus' teaching and His healing?
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Verses 20-23: The Beatitudes (Blessings)

4. What does it mean to be "blessed" in the context of this passage?
5. Why does Jesus say that the poor are blessed and that the kingdom of God belongs to them (v. 20)?
 - How does this challenge the world's view of wealth and status?
6. What kind of hunger is Jesus referring to in verse 21? How might this apply both physically and spiritually?
7. Why does Jesus consider those who are persecuted for His sake to be blessed (vv. 22-23)?
 - How do you personally handle rejection or criticism for your faith in Christ?
8. Have you experienced or witnessed the truth of the blessings that Jesus describes?

Verses 24-26: The Woes

10. What kind of life is Jesus warning against in these woes? How does this speak to modern values of success, happiness, and security?
 11. What steps can you take to guard against the attitudes that Jesus warns against, such as complacency, self-satisfaction, and the desire for worldly approval?
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Time to reflect:

- Take time to be still and reflect together. Which of the beatitudes or woes speaks most to your current spiritual life, and why?
- What do you think God is calling you to do or be in response to this?
- Share your reflections in small groups and pray about these things together.