

05012022 the right kind of Hunger...Jesus has just chosen the primary message bearers of his good news about the Kingdom of God....now he goes on to teach them the culture of his Kingdom.... The beatitudes.. how it works... **what he will share is revolutionary...no one listening to him has ever heard such words and concepts spoken with such authority before...a different way of life... That the king of this Heavenly Kingdom has come down from this Kingdom to gather all those who will become part of his eternal kingdom...What Jesus is telling his message bearers and disciples and the people who have come to be healed, be delivered and to hear him will be revolutionary...no one listening to him has ever heard such words and concepts spoken with such authority before...**

- We will witness this speech as we examine the longest discourse of Jesus recorded...His words were uniquely original...full of authority...and profoundly deep in content that even the most skeptical...were perplexed and amazed...and taken back...
- **As he tells his disciples The only prerequisite for entering His Kingdom... You must be in great acknowledged poverty! leading one to come to Jesus for help... and He blesses those who qualify by letting them enter his Kingdom**
- **Blessing means to cause to prosper...to make one happy... in the sense of wholeness..to add value**

**Last week we examined this way to belong to His Kingdom...btu we will quickly go back ovwer it as it sets the tone for the rest of his teaching..**

*NLT LK 6: 20 Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said, "God blesses you who are poor, for the Kingdom of God is yours.*

- **A conscious recognition of an inner condition...Bless are those ...it is advantageous to those who acknowledge...they are in deep need...The first law of his kingdom...is that you must recognize your poverty and this kingdoms poverty..**

- Jesus is not speaking about earthly poverty ...no where in scripture does God state starvation, homelessness or being penniless is a blessing...in fact the alleviation of such conditions is spoken of as a moral mandate...
- **From Jesus perspective all humans are poverty stricken**
- **We are all in a slow but continual state of decaying! We all age until death... our bodies are poverty stricken therefore no matter how much wealth I have...I leave it here for my body will die**
- **And in a spiritual sense everyone is poverty stricken by sin dead spiritually ...sufferinf its penalty eternal separation from God... death..**
- **When we see ourselves correctly, we become kingdom-fit.**

*Today we examine the second way blessing comes in his Kingdom*  
**When one acknowledges they are in deep internal need and it is met...they begin to hunger for others to be filled with the love of Jesus' and they too can belong to his kingdom...but there is more...**

*NLT LK 6:21 God blesses you who are hungry now, for you will be satisfied.*

- **Matthew says it this with a little more clarification:**

*NLT MT 5:6 God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.*

- **When you see your poverty ...you are now able to see the worlds poverty ...of righteousness and Justice ...you begin to long for it... this is what happens to a follower of Christ..**
- **Many of us interpret Jesus blessing upon those 'who hunger and thirst for righteousness', as a particular benediction for those of us who zealously seek 'personal piousness'.**
- **However, the word that we translate as 'righteousness', which Jesus uses in this blessing, indicates he is commending those followers of his who fervently seek 'justice' in this world, rather than just 'personal piousness'**

- **The fact that Jesus' bestowed his blessing upon those 'who hunger and thirst for justice' should come as no great surprise to those of us who know the scripture, as the 'pursuit of justice' is a core theme in the Bible, and the words used for 'justice' recur over 1000 times in the Old and the New Testaments.**

**Many people say Jesus said a lot about love, but very little about political, economic and social justice.**

But Jesus constantly confronted the injustice in his society. In the synoptic Gospels - not counting the parallel passages - there is a clear and unmistakable record of Jesus specifically and repeatedly confronting both Roman and Jewish authorities with the injustices they perpetrated in Israel - 40 times!

Jesus followed on from John the Baptist in denouncing the exploitation of the poor by the rich.

*Luke 3:* <sup>7</sup> When the crowds came to John for baptism, he said, "You brood of snakes! Who warned you to flee the coming wrath?" <sup>8</sup> Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. Don't just say to each other, 'We're safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.' That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax of God's judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> The crowds asked, "What should we do?" <sup>11</sup> John replied, "If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry." <sup>12</sup> Even corrupt tax collectors came to be baptized and asked, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> He replied, "Collect no more taxes than the government requires." <sup>14</sup> "What should we do?" asked some soldiers. John replied, "Don't extort money or make false accusations. And be content with your pay."

- **John told the armed forces:** *“Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely - be content with your pay.”*
- **And he told the tax collectors:** *“Don’t collect any more than you are required to”.*
- **He also said:** *“The man with two shirts should share with him who has none, and share your food with the hungry.”*

**Jesus continually confronted the Religious leaders for their lack of concern for hurting people and their own injustice toward them.**

*NLT LK 11: 42 “What sorrow awaits you Pharisees! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens; but you ignore justice and the love of God. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.”*

- **Jesus told his future rulers to be different than the Romans serve the people rather than oppress them.**

*NLT Matt 20:20 Then the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt respectfully to ask a favor. <sup>21</sup> “What is your request?” he asked. She replied, “In your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left.” ....*

*Matt 20:<sup>24</sup> When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. <sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. <sup>26</sup> But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. <sup>28</sup> For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

While the Pharisees ostracized “sinners”, Jesus invited “outcasts” to his dine with him.

*NLT Luke 14:*<sup>11</sup> For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”<sup>12</sup> Then he turned to his host. “When you put on a luncheon or a banquet,” he said, “don’t invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward.”<sup>13</sup> Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.<sup>14</sup> Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you.”

**Jesus says that: those who bless others - by seeking to do justice to them - will be blessed themselves**

*This is nothing new... God always cared for the hurting*

*NLT Jeremiah 9:*<sup>23</sup> This is what the LORD says: “Don’t let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches.”<sup>24</sup> But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the LORD who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the LORD, have spoken!

• **You see... You are most like God when you “bless the Less”**

*NLT Luke 6:*<sup>36</sup> You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

**1. What a blessing it is to reach inside your heart and find care for others. Caring means stepping outside of your comfort zone and reaching out to offer compassion. It means resisting selfishness and self-pity and considering others worthy of Care.**

• **Apply: Take inventory of your gifts, personality, time, heart, and money and then look for a job, volunteer ministry, or other opportunity to offer what you have to those in need in Jesus’ name.**

1. There are so many ways that we can care:
2. • Listen to a hurting heart...Offer a meal to the hungry
  - Visit the elderly...Play with a child
  - Smile at a stranger...obey when the Holy Spirit tells you to do something for someone
  - Welcome visitors into your home
  - Give directions to someone who is lost
  - Help a friend in need
  - Love a difficult family member
  - Pray for an enemy
- When we express care and kindness to others often they return *care and kindness* to us!
- But even if they don't return the favor we're blessed by giving, For God will show us Mercy, in our time of need
- We receive the joy of connecting with someone in need, the wisdom gained from stepping in another's shoes, the meaning of making a difference for someone, and the honor of being used by God to help another – these are blessings that enrich our lives.
- But there is more

*Matthew 5:7* God blesses those who are **merciful**, for they will be shown mercy.

- That is called paying it forward to yourself!! When you are merciful...giving someone what they have not earned...God will give to you what you do not deserve in your time of need!
- *Pray:* Dear God, help me to see what I have to give and to offer it to others with a caring heart. Help me to see their needs and to feel their pains. Help me care as you care for me. Amen.
- *One last point...*

*NLT MT 5:6* God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.



**When? When the Kingdom comes in its fullness. That's when those of us who have been hungering for justice will finally be satisfied, for that is when we will finally see justice.**

*Rev 22:11 Let the one who is doing harm continue to do harm; let the one who is vile continue to be vile; let the one who is righteous continue to live righteously; let the one who is holy continue to be holy.”<sup>12</sup> “Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds.*

- **We know that we do not see justice in this world. We disciples hunger and thirst for it and we work and pray for it, but we do not see it, not in its fullness, not now.**
- **No. In this world we continue to see wicked men conquer and evil schemes triumph, despite the best of our efforts. But one day, when the Kingdom comes, we will see true justice prevail, and we shall be satisfied. That is Jesus' promise.**
- **Don't grow weary in doing good**

*Galatians 6:9 So let's not get tired of **doing** what is **good**. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.*

**End**

- **What you need most is to have a relationship with God And a change in the way they perceive and live life...period I was a smart thief...but life dumb**

**He says the culture is wrong side up...he came to turn it rights side up...**

- Wholeness is not an outside –in work...But an inside-out work the truly blessed life comes from belonging to God and loving others...
  - Lets pick up the sermon...
- *REV 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> He will **wipe every** tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*
  - *REV 21:5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

This illustrates Jesus' commitment to the "upside-down society" he believed God would one day establish. A society which is the exact opposite of our own – the first are last, the last are first, and the fate of the rich and the poor are reversed.

end



End

*Rev 6:9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of all who had been martyred for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony. <sup>10</sup> They shouted to the Lord and said, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you judge the people who belong to this world and avenge our blood for what they have done to us?” <sup>11</sup> Then a white*

*robe was given to each of them. And they were told to rest a little longer until the full number of their brothers and sisters<sup>[1]</sup>—their fellow servants of Jesus who were to be martyred—had joined them.*

*LK 6: 20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.*

**Jesus turns from the crowd and speaks to his appointed apostles...and Says Blessed are the poor ...for they can enter the Kingdom...**

**What are his disciples thinking...In their culture you are blessed if you are Roman citizen...even more blessed is a Roman with wealth.. ...or a Jew who who is wealthy ...and a religious leader who is both wealthy and right with God...the most blessed**

- **\*\*And then Jesus shatters that cultural belief...He wants them to know is that in his Kingdom ...he blesses people ...adds value...by including those normally left out..... be blesses the marginalized..... but only those who are open to receive the blessing... be blesses the broken...this Kingdom will grow and be sustained by those on the bottom!!!...**
- **Jesus is not speaking about earthly poverty ...no where in scripture does God state starvation, homelessness or being penniless is a blessing...in fact the alleviation of such conditions is spoken of as a moral mandate...**
- **The amazing part is that from Jesus perspective all humans are poverty stricken**
- **We are all in a slow but continual state of decaying! We all age until death... our bodies are poverty stricken therefore no matter how much wealth I have...I leave it!**
- **and in a spiritual sense everyone is poverty stricken by sin dead spiritually ...suffering its penalty eternal separation from God... death..**

**When we see ourselves correctly, we become kingdom-fit.**

- **Bless are those ...it is advantageous to those who acknowledge...they are in deep need...**
- **people are in a real sense two time losers...in the natural human mortality rate is at 100% and we are powerless over it!**
- **and spiritual losers...under wrath and separated from God...**
- **Once people understand this they have no exaggerated sense of their own importance... Remember he is speaking to his disciples...and telling them ... that it is acceptable, even desirable, to understand you are spiritually and Physically impoverished.**
- **But the Kingdom you now belong too... changes everything!!**

**++++There is pie in the sky....there is a better place...the best is yet to come...so keep your focus right**

Knowing you lack is the key to Receive! Blessed are you who are broken here...you won't be there

- Blessed are the one who don't fit here... you will there
- **You see People who follow Jesus ... know the best is yet to come...**
  - Their outlook on the world is eternal...and they are truly blessed to be chosen and a part of it...
  - They expect God to do what he says
  - They wait patiently on the Lord to do it
  - **They live with purpose, act with purpose and make choices on purpose...the blessed become a blessing!**

Three points to know before we proceed into chapter 6 of Luke...

- 1. what he will share is revolutionary...no one listening to him has ever heard such words and concepts spoken with such authority before...**
- We will witness this speech as we examine the longest discourse of Jesus recorded...His words were uniquely original...full of authority...and profoundly deep in content that even the most skeptical...were perplexed and amazed...and taken back...

- They were sent to bring him in to the religious leaders and they come back ...without him and speechless..

And this is it...

- 2. The kingdom of God is a kingdom that is established in a person...** it is not a earthly kingdom with an earthly location...it is a kingdom made up of people who have given the Kingship of their lives to Jesus...it is an inside Job.. a personal individual joining do a spiritual kingdom with a living spiritual personal God. that will effect everything outside..

*LK 17:20* Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the **kingdom of God** would come, Jesus replied, "The **kingdom of God** does not come with your careful observation, <sup>21</sup> nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the **kingdom of God** is within you."

- 3. That the king of this Heavenly Kingdom has come down from this Kingdom to gather all those who will become part of his eternal kingdom...**

*John 18:33* Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

*JN 18:34* "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

*JN 18:35* "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

*JN 18:36* Jesus said, "**My kingdom** is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now **my kingdom** is from another place."

*JN 18:37* "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

#### **4. Anyone is welcome into this Kingdom:**

*MT 11:28* "Come to me, **all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.** <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

- **The only perquisite for entering His Kingdom is a condition of weariness and burden leading one to come to Jesus...**
- **Knowledge, education, possession power prestige or the lack there of are not qualifiers nor disqualifiers...**
- **Acknowledgement of need is the qualifier**

points to know before we proceed into chapter 6 of Luke...