

Beatitudes Sunday School Study
Week 2: February 13, 2022



Opening Prayer

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Read the Beatitudes from Luke's gospel: Luke 6:17-31

⁷He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ²⁴“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³

VIDEO AJ Levine discusses the beatitudes on Amplify (Link and Access Code Information is in this week’s email)

Pastors notes

Luke is speaking to a wider audience and on the plain where life happens. For Luke, the marginalized, the outsiders are very important and very important to God. Luke extends far and wide to even those most would exclude; Jesus spends a lot of time in his ministry in Luke bringing them back into the community of faith and care. Luke's Jesus turns the world upside down from the prevalent values. Jesus has just given his mission statement, and now he's laying out his vision, the guiding values for that new community. The new Israel is an alternative community characterized by generosity, service to the poor and outsiders of all kinds, peacemaking, and forgiveness. For those hearing Jesus speak, its like a bomb falling. It shakes up their world, yet both Matthew and Luke are simply repeating God's commands of old. In each gospel, people are to already have the knowledge of what God desires of the world. I highly recommend the video link that I will send via email. It's on a

streaming service called *Amplify* that's like Netflix for churches. The speaker is a well known and respected New Testament professor who happens to be Jewish (Amy Jill Levine), and she really clarifies what the crowd listening to Jesus already knew that we don't always know.

Guiding verses from the Old Testament and New Testament

❖ Exodus 20:1-17 The Ten Commandments

Then God spoke all these words: ²I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

❖ Luke 4:14-21 Jesus mission statement

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Definitions *from Webster’s and Wycliffe Bible dictionaries*

1. Blessed

Websters– having a sacred nature : connected with God: HOLY; happy

Wycliffe –state of blessedness or happiness is usually the Hebrew *asher* or Greek *makarios* which both mean one who is truly happy before the Lord

2. Kingdom of God /Kingdom of Heaven

Websters – a politically organized community or major territorial unit having a monarchical form of government headed by a king or queen; the eternal kingship of God or the realm in which God's will is fulfilled

Wycliffe –area ruled by a king ; in this instance the king is Jesus and the kingdom is both now and in the future it basically is t where God/Jesus rules

3. Poor (in spirit)

Websters– lacking material possessions, relating to or characterized by poverty; less than adequate, meager, inferior

Wycliffe -from the greek word ptochos meaning to reduced to begging, lowly lacking in something , economically poor NOTE: the Bible defines the poor as ones who are deserving of divine and earthly care (see Isaiah 49:10,Deuteronomy 15:11;Jeremiah 31:25,Ezekiel 34:29 and many others)

Poor in spirit -those who recognize their spiritual poverty or bankruptcy for ex.Paul (Romans 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.)

4. Hunger for righteousness

Websters - 1.a craving or urgent need for food or a specific nutrient: an uneasy sensation occasioned by the lack of food: a weakened condition brought about by prolonged lack of food 2. A strong desire or craving

Wycliffe -Hunger used three ways in the Bible, physical hunger and starvation;normal desire for food, desire for spiritual satisfaction and sustenance (Matthew 5)

What is righteousness? Goodness, godliness,justice compassion mercy (see the Magnificat Luke 1; Psalm 107:5-6;

Discussion Questions

- ❖ What are 4 qualities of Kingdom people, i.e. disciples of Jesus ?
 - Luke's blessings
- ❖ How do they compare with our cultural values today, especially as portrayed in films and TV programs?
- ❖ Who is a happy person? What kind of life is worth living? What is Jesus' wisdom for us (i.e., the path we should take)?
- ❖ Who are the poor in our community?
- ❖ What do we hunger for ?
 - When you are really hungry, do you reach for a nutritious healthy snack? Or junk food? Fast food or something quick and easy? What is the good food Jesus would have us eat Spiritually?

