

Are We Honoring Jesus as Lord – Part 3: Luke 6:20-26 ESV

Be Sure to Receive the Blessings and Avoid the Woes!

Services: Wednesday, February 17 at 11 AM and 7 PM

Church Year: Second Wednesday of Lent – 2016

During Lent: Wednesday Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Jesus loves us so much; therefore, He **came**, **lived**, **suffered**, and **died** to take away our sins! Now, *by grace through faith*, He is our Savior **and** our Lord!

Today, *in part 3 of this series*, Jesus will speak to us about **blessings** and **woes**. Since His love for us is so great, He wants us to **receive the blessings** and **reject the woes**. Therefore, *as we proceed through this sermon*, let us keep asking: Are we honoring Jesus as Lord by taking His blessings and woes seriously?

The Bible records that Jesus spoke four blessings; then four corresponding woes. *In this sermon* we will consider four categories, with each category containing *one blessing* and *its corresponding woe*.

From earlier in Luke chapter 6, the Bible tells us that ¹⁷ “a great crowd of [Jesus’] disciples **and** a great multitude of people” were present; then the Bible records that ²⁰ “... **[Jesus] lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said...**”

1. **Poor Is Good; Rich Is Bad:**

- a. ^{20b} **“Blessed [happy] are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.”** // Since poor is

good, what does it mean to be poor? We are poor when God enables us to *see our sin and our inability to save ourselves*. Are you poor?

b. ²⁴ **“But woe [“a state of intense hardship or distress – ‘disaster, horror.’” (Louw-Nida Lexicon)] to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation [comfort].”**

- i. Since rich is bad, what does it mean to be rich? We are rich when we are trusting in our money; that is horrible because *such people are **not** trusting in Jesus!* Such people *“may seem satisfied and try to persuade themselves and others that they are happy; but what about the world to come”* (Kretzmann, NT 1:297)? **Mark 8:35-37**
- ii. So a Christian has a *different* view of money as explained by Dr. Kretzmann: He *“does **not** think of putting his faith in [his money or possessions]. He knows that he is not in reality the owner of the goods entered under his name, but the steward of God... And he must give an account on the last day”* (ibid). *Riches are dangerous!*

2. **Hungry Is Good; Full Is Bad:**

- a. ²¹ **“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.”** // Since hungry is good, what does it mean to be hungry? We are hungry when we desire God’s gift of salvation **more** than the pleasures of this world. So let each of us ask: *What is my hunger, my greatest desire?*

- b. **25** **“Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.”** // Since full is bad, what does it mean to be full? We are full when we hunger for the things of this world☹. When we gain them, we may even feel content, yet, *without repentance*, we will hunger for righteousness *too late* and never be satisfied☹.

3. **Weeping Is Good; Laughing Is Bad:**

- a. **21b** **“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.”** // Since weeping is good, what does it mean to *rightly* weep? We *rightly* weep when are sad about the chasm between God’s holiness and our sinfulness. For all such people, they benefit from Jesus who has become the bridge over troubled waters! When we think about our sin, *are we weeping?*
- b. **25b** **“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.”** // Since laughing is bad, what does it mean to *wrongly* laugh? We *wrongly* laugh when we sin and **✚**do not care, **✚**are not sorry, and **✚**have no desire to change. Since more and more are embracing evolution today, there are more and more who believe there is ✓no God, ✓no right and wrong, and ✓no eternity. *May the Lord bring them to repentance before it is too late!*

4. **Being Hated Is Good; Being Well Spoken of Is Bad:**

- a. **22** **“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and**

spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³ **Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.** // Since being hated is good, under what circumstances is being hated good? When we know Jesus as Savior and Lord, *we will speak and live for Him*. When we do, unbelievers will ♦hate us, ♦exclude us, ♦call us names, and ♦even call us evil because of our connection with Jesus. When that happens, *then we should rejoice* – because such treatment points to our relationship with Jesus!

- b. ²⁶ **“Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.”** // Why is it a serious problem when all people speak well of us? That means we are not living for Jesus, thus *we do not know Jesus as Savior and Lord or we are ashamed of Him* 😊.

Conclusion: Today’s sermon had some hard sayings. John Lewis (1876-1967) once said, **“I would rather have thousands to say to me at the judgment, ‘We heard you preach, and you hurt our feelings, than to have just one soul to say, ‘I heard you preach, but you did not tell me the truth.’”** *I agree!*

If we are poor, hungry, weeping, and hated – *praise be to God!* But if we are rich, full, laughing, and well-spoken of by all people – *let us repent!*

Please join me in prayer... And all God’s people said: **Amen!**