

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany – 2025
Saturday, 2/15 at 4:00 | Sunday, 2/16 at 9:00



LIFE

Do You have a
Right Understanding?

Text: Luke 6:17-26 NAS 1995

Introduction: We are in **Luke chapter 6**. Both *before* and *during* today's gospel reading, **Jesus shook up His hearers – to give them a right understanding of LIFE!**

- When His disciples were accused of ***working on the Sabbath***, Jesus ➔ explained why they could and ➔ declared Himself to be **“Lord of the Sabbath” (5)**.
- When Jesus ***healed a man with a shriveled hand on the Sabbath***, He did not violate the Sabbath, but the Pharisees **“were furious” (11)**.

Then, ***after praying all night***, Jesus chose 12 of His disciples, **“whom He also designated apostles” (13)**. Note: *The important choices were preceded by an all-night prayer!*

Now, *coming to today's gospel reading*, this is the setting.

1. **Setting:** ¹⁷ **Jesus came down with [the 12] and stood on a level place; and *there was* a large crowd of His disciples, and a great [multitude] of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon,** ¹⁸ **who had come to hear Him and to be healed of their**

diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured. ¹⁹ And all the people were trying to touch Him, for power was coming from Him and healing *them* all. // Jesus had many who were interested:

- a. A large crowd of disciples: *People who followed Him!*
- b. Many others from the coast, Judea, and the city of Jerusalem – *who wanted to be healed by Jesus!*

The **physical healing** attracted them; then Jesus gave them **spiritual teaching** to benefit their eternal souls.

Take Note: The next section is like [Matthew 5](#), but also different. I believe Jesus taught similar things in different places during His ministry.

Caution: In this section, Jesus is going to tell us that people who are poor, hungry, weeping, and hated are eternally blessed. Do the poor and hungry automatically go to heaven? **No!** *So let us be careful how we understand Jesus' words.*

2. **Great Teaching Opportunity:** ²⁰ **And turning His gaze toward His disciples...**

- a. **The Blessed [Happy] Ones:**
 - i. **“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.”** // Does that mean that all who are ▶living on Medicaid or ▶below the poverty level or ▶living in a third world country are members of God's kingdom? **NO!** **The blessed ones** – *by God's grace* **▶know they are spiritually bankrupt** and **▶are trusting in Jesus for eternal life!**

- ii. ²¹ **“Blessed are you who hunger [strongly desire something] now, for you shall be satisfied.”** // Hunger for what? Between 9 and 20 million die of hunger each year. Will they all be satisfied in eternity? **No! Jesus is talking about people who hunger for God’s forgiveness!**
- iii. **“Blessed are you who weep [express strong inner emotion] now, for you shall laugh.”** // Weep over what? **Over their sins! They shall laugh as they enjoy eternity in God’s glorious presence!**
- iv. ²² **“Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. ²³ Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets.”** // Do we want to be hated? **No!** But, when it happens BECAUSE of our relationship with Jesus, then we should leap for joy!
- b. **The Cursed [Unhappy] Ones:**
- i. ²⁴ **“But woe [extreme displeasure] to you who are rich, for you are receiving your comfort in full.”** // Rich how? Rich in trusting in money, rather than in Jesus. For the many who keep doing it, *there will be no comfort for them in eternity!*
- ii. ²⁵ **“Woe to you who are well-fed now, for you shall be hungry.”** // Where are many people today? They **think** they have life figured out, so *they have no hunger for God’s saving truth. For all such people, unless they repent, they will experience extreme displeasure for all eternity!*

- iii. **“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.”** // Do you think your sins are funny? Do you readily continue in them? Do you have no respect for the Almighty God? ***If you answered “YES,” then you should know with certainty that mourning and weeping will characterize your existence for all eternity!***
- iv. ²⁶ **“Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way.”** // I want your positive feedback, **but**, EVEN MORE, ***I want you to know Jesus!*** What are the results of my preaching? Some love me, *but there are plenty who hate me!* Martin Luther wrote, “Always preach in such a way that if the people listening do not come to hate their sin, they will instead HATE YOU.” Paul wrote, ^{NIV} **1 Thess. 2:4** “We are not trying to please people but God...” I am trying to do the same for your eternal benefit!

Conclusion: **LIFE** – 2 choices:

- Do your own thing and hope for the best – *leading to a horrible eternity!* **OR**
- Be open to God’s word and trust in Jesus – *leading to a wonderful eternity!*

Let Us Pray: Father in heaven, TY for helping us see life in a proper way – *having sorrow for sin and trust in Jesus!* Please grant the same for many others!

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