

Exegetical Notes, Luke 6:17-26
“Blessings and Woes”

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Luke 6:17-26

Verse 17-19

He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing all of them.

- This is Luke’s version of the Sermon on the Mount. See Matthew 5:3-12.
- Luke notes that Jesus stood on a level spot and that there was a large crowd present.
- Healings preceded the sermon.

Verse 20

Looking at his disciples, he said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.”

- The healing was for the sake of those who did not believe. The teaching is directed at his disciples, his followers.
- “Blessed” is the Greek word which means happy or content.
- Jesus said that those among his disciples who are poor can/should be content because they know that they will inherit the kingdom of Heaven. Matthew says, “poor in spirit” implying that the poverty Jesus mentions is deeper than just material poverty. Even those of Jesus’ disciples who have not gained a deep and abiding faith yet, can be content and assured of Heaven if they are trusting Jesus.

Verse 21

“Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.”

- When we enter the Kingdom of Heaven, those who are hungry will be fed and sorrow will be turned to joy.

Verse 22-23

“Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.”

- Our blessing is in Jesus. So, when we are rejected by those who do not know Jesus because they know that we belong to Jesus, we should be happy. Their rejection confirms God’s blessing.
- Israel always rejected God’s message and those who brought it to them.

Verse 24

“But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.”

- “Woe” means cursed.
- If you are depending on wealth to be your comfort and you have become wealthy, you have what you wanted, money. However, you will discover that your money cannot buy you a place in heaven.

Verse 25

“Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.”

- When those who reject Jesus now discover that Jesus is the only way into the Kingdom of Heaven, they will be sad.

Verse 26

“Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.”

- If those who reject Jesus think of you as one of them, be concerned. If they do not see him in you, you are probably sending the wrong message.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Blessings and Woes*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)