

Luke
See Jesus
The Blessings of Upside-Down Living
Luke 6:17-26

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / March 21, 2021

I. Jesus Came to Proclaim a Radically Different Kind of Kingdom

Jesus came as the ultimate King who's been given all authority and power to establish a new administration that He calls the Kingdom of God! He wants you to know the effects of this kingdom are more comprehensive and radical than you could ever imagine!

What do His kingdom people look like and how do they live?

II. Kingdom People Prize What the World Would Despise

"In the life of God's people will be seen first of all a remarkable reversal of values. They will prize what the world calls pitiable, and suspect what the world thinks is desirable."

~ Michael Wilcox commentary

One of the marks of a Christian – or Kingdom person – is a radical reversal of values where we no longer prize and chase after what the world chases after. We prize some of the very things that the world would despise, like weakness, meekness, turning the other cheek, and overcoming evil with good.

Jesus says when you're in the kingdom it's because:

A. You Embrace the Humility of Poverty

Luke 6:20 "...Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God."

He's talking about spiritual poverty or an internal awareness that you don't have what it takes and you don't have everything you need to make it on your own in this world!

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit..."

The Greek word for "poor" here is the word "ptochos" that describes a condition of absolute, abject poverty. It was a root word that meant to crouch or to cower because it describes a person who is so destitute that they're forced to kneel and beg.

Jesus is saying that the very starting point for coming into the Kingdom of God is to be poor in spirit, recognizing, "I don't have what it takes!"

You don't just *try* Christianity like some self-help book or seminar. You have to be spiritually bankrupt or "poor in spirit" so that you turn to God saying, "I'm not coming to You because I need some kind of booster shot. I'm coming to You because I'm at the end of myself and I realize I have nothing...and You have everything! Save me, O God!"

B. You're Hungry for More than What This World Can Give

Luke 6:21 "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied..."

Right here in this world, you will live most fully and you'll fight sin most effectively when you stay hungry for something and someone outside of this world.

"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world [something supernatural and eternal]."

~ C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

C. Your Joys Are Never Far from Sorrow

Luke 6:21 "...Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh."

Kingdom people weep more because they care and carry more of the brokenness of this world.

D. You're Not Surprised by the Exclusion and Hate You Face

Luke 6:22 "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!"

The more your life looks like Jesus and the more God's glory shines through you, the more you will both attract and repel people! There won't be much middle ground.

Your life should either get a reaction or be an attraction because Jesus Christ was one of the most compelling and controversial figures in all of history. He's given these radical marching orders in a new upside-down kingdom!

III. How Do You Know Which Kingdom You're In?

One of the ways you can tell which kingdom you're in is how you respond when some of the things our world treasures and prizes the most are shaken or taken from your life.

If you're still a citizen of this worldly kingdom only, you will be miserable and melt down because these things are your only sense of comfort and identity; you don't know how to go on without them.

If you try to fill your soul with the things of this world, you'll end up with cosmic emptiness and grief.

How can any of us begin to prize what the world would call us to despise?

Your own human reasoning and fleshly desires will never go there until you've given your life to the One who gave His life for you.

2 Corinthians 8:9 "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich."

Philippians 2:5-11 "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."