

## Best to Be Blessed

Luke 6:17-26

Jesus' sermon reveals what it truly means to be a blessed believer.

*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, <sup>18</sup>who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, <sup>19</sup>and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. <sup>20</sup>Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup>Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets. <sup>24</sup>But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets." Luke 6:17-26 (New International Version)*

### ➤ Principle #1: BLESSED BELIEVERS ARE **POOR** AND **HUNGRY**.

*Looking at his disciples, he said, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. <sup>21</sup>Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied . . . <sup>24</sup>But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. <sup>25</sup>Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry." Luke 6:20-21, 24-25a (NIV)*

- "Blessed" – from the Greek, "mekarios" = overwhelming joy or happiness; denotes the quality of **deity**
- There can be no blessing without **Christ's indwelling**.
- "Poverty" – from the Greek = someone who has to beg for what they get
- A good appetite is a sign of **health**.
- "Woe" – from the Greek, "ouai" = a situation of **horror, disaster**, and **calamity**
- Are you still hungering and thirsting for God's Word?

*Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.*  
Psalm 34:8 (NIV)

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.* Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

*Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.* Hebrews 5:13 (NIV)

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

### ➤ Principle #2. BLESSED BELIEVERS ARE **HURTING** AND **HATED**.

*"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets. <sup>25</sup> . . . Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. <sup>26</sup>Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets." Luke 6:21b-23, 25b-26 (NIV)*

- The difference between anger and anguish is a **broken heart**.
- Being hated by the world is an **identification marker** of being a Christ-follower.  
*"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. <sup>19</sup>If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."*  
John 15:18-19 (NIV)
- When we take a stand for Christ, we will experience troubles.  
*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* John 16:33 (NIV)

Application: Am I a friend of the world or am I facing persecution for Christ's sake?

### ➤ Principle #3. BLESSED BELIEVERS ARE **HOPEFUL** PEOPLE!

*"Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven."*  
Luke 6:23a (NIV)

- Blessed people look beyond the here and now and, instead, look to their **eternal home**.

Application:

- Do I have a **humble spirit** that displays a beggar's dependence on God?
- Do I **crave** spiritual growth?
- Do I love to study God's Word?
- Does my sin and the sin of others cause a mourning in my spirit?
- Does my heart ache for the things that break God's heart?
- Do I live my life in a way that takes a stand for Christ and God's truth?
- Do I rejoice in the **hope and rewards** that Jesus promises?