

The Upside-Down Kingdom

Living the Liturgical Year

[Luke 6:17-26](#)

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

*Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets. **Luke 6:20-26***

REFLECTION

In this passage, often referred to as “the sermon on the plain,” Jesus delivers these words to his disciples while in the midst of the crowd. Read the [entire passage](#). **Why do you think Jesus speaks specifically to his disciples here? Could it be a teaching moment for them within the larger crowd?**

As we look at the four blessings and four woes of this passage, we must realize that our lives are a mix of both, rather than trying to achieve only the blessings. Our blessings are not because of current conditions, but rather for a promised future. Jesus promises the transformation of mourning into laughter. **Why, then, are our blessings or woes NOT the end of our story? What simple reminders this week have reminded you that God is with you?**

Read the woes of [verses 25-26](#). Jesus himself demonstrates both laughter and fullness when he turns water into wine at the wedding party. **What, then could be woeful about these things, and why does this make us uncomfortable? If such things become our priorities, why would this be woeful to us?**

Jesus does not take his blessings and hoard them, but rather humbly gives them to others. This reframes for us how blessings should work in our lives. **How are you blessed to be a blessing?**

Heavenly Father, help us see our blessings not as an end in themselves. Breathe your purpose into our lives and help us discern together how we are called to be a blessing to others. Amen.