



THE BOOK OF
LUKE

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
UNIT TWO

April - May 2024

Luke 6:20-26 | April 7, 2024

LUKE

When we come to a sermon like this, we are often tempted to read it using our modern lens and meaning of words, when in fact, the Lord is communicating something far more profound. How does Jesus' teaching in Luke 6:20-26 challenge traditional notions of blessings and woes?

Read the four "blessings" in verses 20-23. Why are these things considered "blessings"?

Read the four "woes" in verses 24-26. Why are these things considered "woes"?

Compare each "blessing" with each "woe". How do the blessings pronounced by Jesus contrast with the woes, and what does this reveal about God's values compared to worldly standards?

In what ways does the concept of "blessedness" in verse 20 extend beyond material prosperity and mere happiness in this life? Is there a deeper meaning to being "blessed"?

Read Luke 16:19-21.

What parallels do you see between this passage and the sermon Jesus gave?

How does Jesus' warning about worldly wealth in verses 24-26 resonate with the broader biblical theme of the dangers of placing trust in earthly treasures?

How can we apply the principles of humility, compassion, and reliance on God's provision found in Luke 6:20-26 to our own lives and relationships today?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus presents a radical reordering of values, where those who are traditionally considered blessed—such as the rich, full, and happy—are warned of impending woes, while the poor, hungry, and persecuted are pronounced blessed.
- True fulfillment and blessing are found in a deep trust and reliance on God, regardless of one's earthly circumstances.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Thank the Lord for all of the blessings in your life that are not material, i.e. God's faithfulness, forgiveness of sins, Holy Spirit living within us. Seek a deeper desire for contentment in this life and a deep satisfaction in God alone. Ask for eyes to see the faithfulness of God in your life even when you do not have everything YOU think you need.

LUKE

Luke 6:27-36 | April 14, 2024

Jesus presents a striking model of how we should view our enemies in this life. How does Jesus redefine the concept of love in verses 27-28, challenging His listeners to love their enemies and do good to those who hate them?

Who could be considered our "enemies" today?

What examples does Jesus provide in verses 29-30 to illustrate the radical nature of the love He commands His followers to demonstrate?

Read Romans 12:20.

Paul says that by loving our enemies in ways that Christ would love them results in heaping coals on their heads. This in one way means that by loving our enemies, they are left with a burning conscience as to why we would love them when they treated us so poorly. How does loving our enemies have a lasting effect on them?

In what ways does Jesus urge His disciples to embody the character of God in verses 32-34, particularly in their treatment of others regardless of reciprocation?

The Bible teaches that humanity is inherently enemies of God. Yet God SO loved the world, and He SO loved humanity. According to verse 36, where do we model our mercy and love toward our enemies?

What practical implications can we draw from Jesus' words in our passage for how we interact with others in our daily lives, especially those who may oppose or mistreat us?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus models a counterintuitive way of treating those who hate us, and who seek us harm. This heart toward our enemies should reflect God's heart toward sinners who once hated Him.
- Our relationships in this life are based on the premise that God first loved us, so we ought to love them likewise. Furthermore, God does not let us remain in our sin and opposed to Him but calls us to repentance and reconciliation, so we ought to seek reconciliation with all of our enemies not only between us but between them and the Lord Jesus.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Ask Jesus to cultivate within you a heart of love that extends beyond worldly standards. Pray for the strength to love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, and bless those who curse you. In humility, see your great need for forgiveness from your sin so that you can learn to forgive those who have trespassed against you.

LUKE

Luke 6:37-45 | April 21, 2024

Read Luke 6:37-45.

The passage today is widely known as a passage that is used to criticize any Christian who seeks to speak truth in a false world. As if simply saying "judge not" is the checkmate against a Christian who is seeking to be a witness of Jesus Christ. When Jesus forbids judging, does He mean that we are to never judge? What are biblical examples of judgment that Christians should have?

Read Matthew 7:1-5.

What further insight do we find in this parallel passage in the Gospel of Matthew that would help us understand the Luke account?

Notice that verse 42 still ends with you taking the speck out of your brother's eye. The speck shouldn't be in his eye as much as the log shouldn't be in yours. Both are necessary to be removed. What does the analogy of the speck and the plank in verses 41-42 teach us about how we ought to have biblical judgment?

What are the necessary qualities of the Christian who can remove their own log but also assist in removing the speck in their brother's eye?

How do verses 43-45 shine light on how the human heart operates?

What are the areas of our lives where the abundance of our heart is likely to pour out? List the good and the bad.

How can we practically apply the truth that Jesus gives us in this passage this week?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus is clear in the scriptures that Christians need to operate from a biblical worldview to make wise and discerning judgments concerning the world around them. We must take everything we encounter and judge it against what the Bible has to say.
- It is essential to start with evaluating and judging our own lives against the Bible and seek repentance and life change personally before bringing scriptural convictions to the world.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Spend some time thanking the Lord for being the perfect judge. That no injustice in the world goes unnoticed by Him. Additionally, thank the Lord Jesus that His perfect sacrifice on the cross allowed for God's holy judgment against your sins to be paid for and pardoned. Ask the Lord to show you areas in your life that you need to bring to the Lord that you are blind to. Start by asking Him what log is in your eye. Ask the Lord for eyes to see the world as He sees the world.

LUKE

Luke 6:46-49 | April 28, 2024

In Luke 6:46, Jesus asks, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" How does this question challenge our understanding of discipleship and obedience?

Read Matthew 7:21-23.

What is required beyond simply saying "Lord, Lord" to be a disciple of Jesus?

What does the parable of the wise and foolish builders (verses 47-49) teach us about how our lives ought to be built? Why is the foundation so important when building a structure?

How can we discern whether our spiritual foundation is built on rock or sand, as described in this passage?

Have you personally built your life on something unstable, worldly, and inevitably going to vanish? What was the promised fulfillment in that thing that you built your life on and why would it have never ultimately satisfied you?

Reflecting on verse 48, what are some examples of "digging deep" in our faith, and how does this contribute to a firm foundation?

Discuss the implications of the rising flood mentioned in verse 48. What kinds of challenges or trials might test the strength of our spiritual foundation?

How can we practically apply the lessons from this passage to ensure that our lives are firmly anchored in obedience to Christ's teachings?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- To call Jesus "Lord" is to act in obedience to his lordship. A disciple of Christ not only says that Jesus is Lord, but they obey Jesus as Lord.
- Our lives are built on something. It is a question of whether they are built on the solid rock of Jesus Christ or the unstable, crumbling dirt of the world.
- The flood stream is very much experienced today in our struggles and temptations, but ultimately, will our lives stand up against the judgment of God on the final day?

PRAYER PROMPTS

Spend some time evaluating the foundation of your life. Bring to the Lord things that you have dug deep into that have not proven to be reliable foundations. Commit to the Lord to remain in Him as the foundation of your life.

Luke 7:1-10 | May 5, 2024

LUKE

Jesus continues to exemplify His power and authority in the earth by teaching and healing. This encounter shows us that even through our faith, God can work in the lives of the people around us.

In Luke 7:1-10, what stands out to you about the faith of the centurion? How does his example challenge our understanding of faith?

How does the centurion's humility and recognition of Jesus' authority (verse 8) demonstrate the characteristics of genuine faith?

Discuss the significance of the centurion's concern for his servant's well-being and his willingness to seek help from Jesus.

What does Jesus' response to the centurion's request reveal about His compassion and willingness to help those who seek Him?

Reflecting on verse 9, how does Jesus highlight the contrast between the centurion's faith and the faith He observed among the people of Israel? How did this centurion have more faith than those of Israel?

What does this passage tell us about bringing the needs of those we love to the Lord? Why should we intercede for those around us?

How can we emulate the centurion's faith and humility in our own lives, especially when facing challenges?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Our passage shows us that humble faith is the best faith. Where we come to the Lord needy, concerned for those around us, and reliant on His power alone to heal.
- The faith of the Roman centurion demonstrates humility, trust, and recognition of Jesus' authority. Despite not being part of the Jewish community, the centurion believes in Jesus' ability to heal his servant.
- Jesus has all authority and power.

PRAYER PROMPTS

Thank God for the example of Jesus' healing power demonstrated in this passage. Reflect on the humility of the centurion in seeking Jesus' help for his servant. Pray for the grace to approach God with similar humility, acknowledging our need for His intervention in our lives and the lives of others. Ask God to strengthen your faith like the centurion's, enabling you to trust in Jesus' authority and power even in the face of difficult circumstances.

Jesus raised three individuals from the dead during His earthly ministry, this being one of them. This is different from the resurrection that Jesus experiences as well as the future resurrection of believers, in that this man was raised to life and reunited with his mortal body, only to die yet again. The resurrection of the living and the dead is a resurrection to glorified eternal bodies.

Reflect on the significance of Jesus raising the widow's son from the dead. What does this miracle reveal about Jesus' authority over death and His ability to bring new life? How does this event point forward to Jesus' ultimate victory over sin and death through His resurrection?

Discuss the various reactions of the crowd to Jesus' miracles, as described in verses 16-17. What do these reactions reveal about people's perceptions of Jesus and their expectations of the Messiah?

Explore John the Baptist's question to Jesus in verses 18-23. Why do you think John sends his disciples to ask if Jesus is the Messiah? How does Jesus' response affirm His identity as the long-awaited Savior, and what does it reveal about the nature of His ministry?

Consider Jesus' words about John the Baptist in verses 24-28. What qualities does Jesus highlight in John, and why does He commend him as more than a prophet? How is it, then, that one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than John?

Analyze Jesus' comparison of His generation to children in the marketplace in verses 31-35. What is the significance of this analogy, and how does it illustrate the people's response to both John the Baptist and Jesus? How might this parable challenge us to examine our own response to the message of the Gospel?

Discuss how our passage can apply to our lives today. How can we respond to Jesus' compassion, recognize His authority, and obey His call to repentance and faith in our lives today?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus alone has the power to raise others from the dead. He uses this encounter with the widow to showcase His power to ultimately defeat death and the grave on the cross.
- Being a citizen of the kingdom of God is the greatest honor we can strive for.
- Many will respond to the call of repentance like children in the marketplace who have no interest in listening to the suggestions of those around them.

PRAYER PROMPTS

In humility, go to the Lord knowing that He alone has the power to save and to raise dead people to life. Thank Him for raising you to new life, once being dead in your sins. Reflect on the children in the marketplace who wouldn't respond. Pray that you would respond to the call of repentance, to God's call to obedience. Ask the Lord to soften your heart and remove any barriers to your understanding of the Gospel.