

Blessings and Woes (Part 2)

Sermon Series: **Luke: All Things New**



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 6:20-26



Big Idea

These blessings and woes present a clash of gospels—one true, and many false. We are tempted to avoid what Jesus blesses and pursue what Jesus warns against. We think salvation might be found in the things of this world. But it is truly only found in Him.

If Jesus blesses things like poverty, hunger, weeping, and persecution, does this mean we should be pursuing them—even in their physical sense? I don't think so. But I do think that what we ought to be able to say with regard to these blessings and woes is that, because we have Jesus, neither side (i.e. whether we're rich or poor) matters that much to us anymore. We are wonderfully free, unattached from the things of this world, because we are attached to the person of Christ.

(1) Poor vs. Rich (vv. 20, 24)

(2) Hungry vs. Full (vv. 21a, 25a)

(3) Weeping vs. Laughing (vv. 21b, 25b)

(4) Rejected vs. Accepted (vv. 22-23, 26)

The way I've been reading this text it's as if Jesus is trying to talk us down off the ledge. We look out at the things of this world—at their big houses, their big meals, their big parties, their big crowds of fans and friends—and we think: "Yes!" But it's a false gospel. And Jesus is coming to us in this text and saying: "No child. You don't see it now but, if you take that step, there's nothing underneath you but air and, 100 stories down, concrete. It's suicide. You end up dead on the bottom with Judas, or Esau, or all the false prophets with all their false gospels." Turn and live!

Reflection Questions



- Why do you worry about money? What does it promise to give you if you get it? How does Christ give this in a fuller and more lasting way?
- Has food or drink ever been a false gospel for you? Have you ever been tempted towards gluttony or drunkenness? Why? What did they promise to give you? How does Christ give this in a fuller and more lasting way?
- Which seems more blessed to you: weeping or laughing? Why would Jesus pronounce blessing on the former. How have you experienced this?
- Describe how you felt the last time you were rejected or excluded. What does the approval of people promise you? How does Christ give this in a fuller and more lasting way?