

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

The Lukan Beatitudes - "Plain" and Simple

Daniel Messina | Luke 6:17-26 | February 2, 2020

DISCUSSION

1. Read Luke 6:17-19. Jesus often came into contact with people from all kinds of backgrounds, and ministered to them through God's word and miracles. Throughout the book of Luke, Jesus interacts with the poor and marginalized. In Luke 4:18 Christ declares His anointing to preach good news to the poor, captive, infirm, and oppressed. Give some examples of Jesus ministering to those on the fringes.
2. How does the fact that Jesus came to the marginalized and the lowly communicate the character of God?
3. In Luke 6:17-19, three groups are identified: the Core, the Crowd, and the Curious. Today, which group do you believe you are a part of? Why? Is it fair for us to categorize ourselves and others as being part of one of these groups? Why or why not?
4. Read Luke 6:20-26 and the parallel passage Matthew 5:3-12 for more detail. Note the contrast between having little now but much in heaven, and having much now but little in the afterlife. A. How does this work? B. Where do you see yourself in these descriptions?
5. Americans are considered "the rich" of today's global community. The rich are constantly tempted to rely on their riches. A. How can we develop a posture of not relying on our riches while yet having them? B. How can the rich live a humble life? Is it even possible? C. What are some of the main challenges associated with having riches?
6. Jesus warns those who "laugh now." He is certainly not saying that we should not enjoy laughter (Proverbs 17:22). Rather, he is highlighting the inability of the rich to weep at the right things. While enjoying themselves and their riches, they neglected the plight of those suffering around them (see Luke 16:19-31, the rich man and Lazarus). How do you safeguard your heart from being indifferent to those around you who may be overcome with grief or pain?
7. Both Luke 6:22 and Matthew 5:10-11 indicate that many of us will be persecuted for our faith. In fact, there are more Christians being persecuted today than in any other time in history. How can members of your small group prepare themselves for suffering?

APPLICATION

8. The vast majority of the world's population today is poor. Almost the entire population of people from Zambia, Burundi, Madagascar, Nepal, and Bangladesh live on \$2 a day, and most of them suffer from hunger. How can your small group develop a compassionate response to the plight of the poor and the hungry here and abroad?
9. We often neglect praying for the persecuted. The vast majority of Christians also do not contribute financially to help our persecuted brothers and sisters around the globe. How can your small group play a role to help alleviate Christian persecution? See www.persecution.com.

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1. Eternal blessings belong to and await you when you recognize your need for God
2. If you do not recognize your need for God you are not blessed and are warned.
 - A. Blessings to the **poor**, but woe to the **rich**.
 - B. Blessings to the **hungry**, but woe to those who are **satisfied**.
 - C. Blessings to those who **weep**, but woe to those who **laugh**.
 - D. Blessings to those who are **mistreated**, but woe to the ones who seek **popularity**.