

## **Luke 6:17-26 – The “Sermon on the Plain”**

After choosing his apostles and coming down the mountain, Jesus was ready to teach the people.

### **1. The signs of the Messiah (v17-19)**

The kingdom was ready to go forward. Jesus had chosen his twelve apostles. They were ready to be taught and trained. Many others had also come to be taught by him – from many places. He had been rejected by the leaders of the Jews, and he appeared to be weak and not an important man – yet Jesus was truly the Messiah. He did powerful signs to show his disciples. They should not give up or lack faith because of the appearance. They should believe. Jesus did signs of healing and deliverance to show his power. Are you also ready to learn from him, and to trust in him even if his kingdom looks small and weak to your outward eyes?

### **2. The happiness of believers (v20-23)**

Jesus then spoke about the joy that true believers should have. He told us about true blessing, which is only for true disciples (followers). Who is truly blessed? It is those who are faithfully following Jesus and suffering because of him. The world thinks that suffering is defeat. But suffering for Jesus is not defeat – it is the sign that we are his. If we are his, we will share in his blessings in the age to come. He died, but rose again in glory – and that glory will be ours too. Most of Jesus' disciples were poor in this world (1 Corinthians 1:26). But theirs is the kingdom; so they can wait and rejoice whilst waiting. They are hungry – perhaps in body because they are abused by their enemies; but perhaps in their souls they are hungry for God's coming and justice. They will receive all they desire and more on that day. They weep now because of sin; but when he makes everything new they will rejoice. Now the world rejects faithful Christians – but it rejected Jesus too. We should rejoice if we are following the same path. The future belongs to Christians, so they can be happy even while suffering in the present. The Bible does not promise us an easy life now (John 16:33); but it tells us that a far greater glory is coming (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).

### **3. The misery of the lost (v24-26)**

Many people just want to be rich and healthy in this life. But this is foolish. We entered this world with nothing. We will leave it with nothing. The question is, what do we have outside of this world? The believer has eternal life and glory stored for him in heaven. What does the unbeliever have? He has nothing. He enters the world with nothing and leaves it as a sinner against a holy God. Jesus told his disciples to seek the kingdom first (Matthew 6:33). But what if we do not? Then Jesus says “woe” to us. The rich without Christ will leave it all behind and have nothing. Those who have full stomachs will be left empty on that day. Those who rejoice now in themselves and their own pleasures will be left in weeping and mourning. Jesus is telling us to not think in a worldly way. We should look deeper. A man may be praised and loved by everybody – but this is not good. Faithful men who speak the truth will often have enemies, whilst those who speak lies will have their lies welcomed and be popular (v23, 26). Today we may appear to be weak, poor and helpless; and ungodly people are rich and powerful. But Jesus came to suffer for our sins and he will turn all things around for us. If we reject him then we must suffer for our own sins; woe to us!