

## LESSON 3 (Feb 2/3, 2021)

### *Messiah Part 2: Beatitudes and Woes, Love Your Enemies*



Read Luke 6:20–26

1. Where did Jesus's teaching take place? (hint: read Luke 6:17–19) Is this a retelling of the Sermon on the Mount account found in Matthew 5–7, or is it a different event?
2. Luke describes two large groups of people who came to hear Jesus speak; who are these two groups? What seems to be the motivation for the second large group coming out to hear him?
3. What are your initial thoughts and feelings upon reading the four blessings and four woes Jesus delivers as He teaches the people? How do you relate to Jesus' words in this passage?
4. Why do you think Jesus teaches the people using both blessing and woes? Why is it important for this tension to exist in Jesus' teaching?
5. How are you challenged by Jesus's teaching of blessedness to those who are humble before him? How is this humility taught by Jesus connected to John the Baptist's message of repentance?

Read Luke 6:27–36

6. What does Jesus mean when he says, "But I say to you who hear"? Is he speaking to those paying attention, or is it something else? Read Zechariah 7:11–14 and Luke 8:4–8 for some clues.
7. Jesus is delivering a sermon to a large crowd in Luke 6:20–Luke 6:49. How would you define the content and style of Jesus' preaching?

8. You can look hard, but you will not find any Old Testament verse that says, “love your enemies.” How does Jesus’s command to love your enemies summarize the Lord’s character/heart as revealed the Old Testament?



9. We live in a world where it can seem easier to identify our enemies than those who might be friends. What blinds us to the fact that apart from Christ we are enemies of God? Read Romans 5:6-10

10. We read the famous “Golden Rule” in verse 31. Many other religions have similar creeds or codes, but what is Christ uniquely calling his disciples to do that makes it different for Christians?

11. Think of someone or a group of people you consider to be an enemy. How might you love them, do good to them, bless them, and pray for them? How can dehumanizing these enemies allow us to circumvent Jesus’s clear command?

12. How do you honestly feel about your “political enemies?” How do you square that with the teaching of Jesus as you consider your feelings? Note: This is a personal question. Please do not make this a political discussion or debate about policies or people!

13. As Jesus concludes He says that in doing good for our enemies we should not expect to get anything in return, yet he also says that our reward will be great. Is this a contradiction? How do you explain it?

14. Jesus speaks twice about the great reward that the humble and those who love their enemies will receive (verses 23 and 35). What comes to mind when you consider receiving rewards from your heavenly Father? What is the difference between being humble and loving the unlovable vs. seeking a reward at the expense of others?

15. Jesus concludes this section of the sermon with the line about the Father, “For He is kind to the ungrateful and to evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” Where are some places in your life you could pray that the Holy Spirit would shape you into a more merciful person?