
SERMON
LUKE - ACTS
SERIES



LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

HEAD

- Since God reigns and rules an Upside-Down Kingdom, and we are citizens of that Kingdom, our lives should be lived upside down.
- The Kingdom of God belongs, even now, to disciples, who are willing to endure any misfortune, because of the Son of Man.
- The Kingdom of God is inaccessible to the rich, who are consumed by their wealth's privilege and power, who do not acknowledge their dependence on the grace of God alone, and who do not leverage their affluence to alleviate the distress of the poor.

– Luke 6:20-26 –



HEART

- (1) The sermon describes the kingdom of God as an ‘upside down kingdom’ where the values of the world are reversed – in what area of your life do you find it most difficult to embrace this upside down way of thinking, and what would it look like practically to reorient your mindset there?

– Luke 6:20-26 –



HEART

- (2) Jesus pronounces blessing on the poor, the hungry, those who mourn, and the hated, disenfranchised, defamed suggesting that hardship can position a person to receive the kingdom more readily – how has a season of personal difficulty or lack ever drawn you closer to dependence on God?

– Luke 6:20-26 –



HEART

- (3) Pastor Daryl distinguishes between Matthew's 'poor in spirit' and Luke's literally poor, arguing that Luke is concerned with actual material poverty -- how should this distinction shape the way the church engages with economic injustice in its surrounding community?

– Luke 6:20-26 –



HEART

- (4) The sermon argues that the gospel historically resonates more with the poor because poverty fosters humility and dependence, which are prerequisites for receiving grace – do you agree with this assessment, and what are the implications for how we present the gospel to people of different socioeconomic backgrounds?

– Luke 6:20-26 –



HEART

- (5) Jesus commands his disciples to rejoice and leap for joy when they are hated, excluded, and slandered because of him – what does it reveal about our spiritual condition when we find ourselves more concerned with being liked by the world than with faithfully representing the kingdom?

– Luke 6:20-26 –



HEART

- (6) Pastor Daryl raises the observation that Jesus is never depicted as laughing in any of the four Gospels, even though joy is described as a fruit of the Spirit – what do you think this silence means, and what does it tell us about the nature of joy in the kingdom of God?

– Luke 6:20-26 –



HEART

- (7) The woes Jesus pronounces are directed not at wealth itself but at the attitudes of arrogance and self-reliance that wealth can produce – how do you personally guard against allowing comfort, privilege, or financial security to erode your sense of dependence on God?

– Luke 6:20-26 –



HEART

- (8) Pastor Daryl highlights Theophilus, the wealthy patron of Luke's Gospel, as a case in point that God does not oppose the rich simply because of their net worth – what responsibilities do you believe wealthy believers carry in light of Jesus' teaching about the kingdom and the poor?

– Luke 6:20-26 –



HANDS

- Choose ONE of the following action steps:
  - **Option 1:** For Personal Reflection. Spend time this week identifying one area where you have been relying on wealth, comfort, status, or worldly approval rather than on dependence on God. Bring that area before God in prayer and ask him to reorient your heart toward the kingdom.

– Luke 6:20-26 –



HANDS

- Choose ONE of the following action steps:
  - **Option 2:** For Your Relationships. Consider someone in your life who is experiencing poverty, grief, or marginalization right now. Rather than offering only words of comfort, take one concrete action this week to come alongside them – a meal, a financial gift, your time, or your advocacy on their behalf.

– Luke 6:20-26 –



HANDS

- Choose ONE of the following action steps:
  - **Option 3**: For Your Community. As a group, identify one local organization serving the poor or marginalized in your area. Discuss what it would look like to engage with that organization together – not as a one-time gesture but as an ongoing expression of upside-down kingdom living.

– Luke 6:20-26 –



HANDS

- Choose ONE of the following action steps:
  - **Option 4**: For Your Prayer Life. Pray specifically this week for the communities the church is serving globally – those experiencing poverty in Nigeria, economic deprivation in Argentina, and the conditions Dr. CV is addressing in India. Ask God to move your heart from awareness to action.

– Luke 6:20-26 –





FIVE DAY DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: The Blessed Poor
Reading: Luke 6:20-21; Psalm 34:18; James 2:5

- **Devotional:** Jesus declared something the world finds scandalous – that the poor are blessed. Not because poverty is virtuous in itself, but because those who have little often carry what the wealthy struggle to find: humility and dependence. The kingdom of God is not earned by achievement or accumulated by affluence. It is received by those who know they cannot manufacture it on their own. Consider where in your own life you have been trusting your own resources rather than resting in God's provision. The kingdom belongs to those who come with open, empty hands.
- **Reflection Question:** In what areas of your life are you relying on your own strength rather than acknowledging your dependence on God?
- **Practical Application:** Identify one area of genuine need in your life today and bring it to God in prayer, releasing it fully into his hands rather than attempting to resolve it through your own effort.

– Luke 6:20-26 –



Day 2: Hunger, Mourning, and the Promise of Reversal
Reading: Luke 6:21; Matthew 5:4-6; Revelation 21:4

- **Devotional:** Jesus spoke directly to those who hunger and those who weep, promising that their present condition is not their permanent condition. The temporal word “now” appears intentionally – you hunger now, you weep now, but the kingdom promises a reversal. God does not ignore the tears of his people. He is not indifferent to the growling of empty stomachs or the ache of grieving hearts. The passive voice of “you will be filled” is deeply significant – you will not fill yourself. God himself will do the filling. Suffering in this life is not the final word for those who belong to the kingdom.
- **Reflection Question:** What present grief or unmet longing are you tempted to believe God has overlooked or forgotten?
- **Practical Application:** Write down one area of mourning or hunger in your life. Beneath it, write the words “you will be filled” as a declaration of faith in God’s promised reversal.

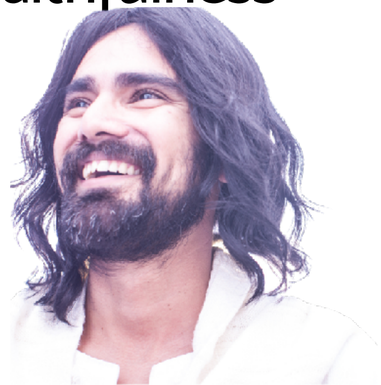


– Luke 6:20-26 –

Day 3: Hated for His Name
Reading: Luke 6:22-23; John 15:18-20; 1 Peter 4:12-14

- **Devotional**: Jesus did not promise his followers popularity. He promised the opposite. When the world hates, excludes, insults, and slanders believers because of their identification with Christ, Jesus calls that condition blessed. The uncomfortable truth is that a life lived in the upside-down kingdom will look strange, even offensive, to those living right side up. If the world's approval is something we desperately pursue, we may need to examine whether we are living the kingdom authentically. The prophets were treated the same way. We are in good company, and our reward, Jesus said, is not small – it is great.
- **Reflection Question**: Are there ways you have softened your witness or compromised kingdom values in order to remain liked or accepted?
- **Practical Application**: Reflect on one relationship or social context where you have been reluctant to live out kingdom values. Take one concrete step this week toward faithfulness in that space, regardless of how it is received.

– Luke 6:20-26 –



Day 4: The Danger of Comfort
Reading: Luke 6:24-26; Luke 12:16-21; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

- **Devotional:** The woes Jesus pronounced were not directed at wealth itself but at what wealth can quietly do to the human heart. Comfort, when it becomes the goal of a life, has a way of crowding out eternity. Those who have received all their comfort in this life have nothing left to anticipate. God is not opposed to the rich – he is the one who grants wealth, as 1 Samuel 2:7 reminds us. But he is deeply opposed to the pride, self-reliance, and indifference to the poor that wealth so easily produces. The question is never how much you have. It is what your wealth has done to your heart.
- **Reflection Question:** Has material comfort made you less dependent on God, less generous toward others, or less attentive to the needs of the poor?
- **Practical Application:** Review your financial habits this week with honest eyes. Identify one specific and tangible way to leverage what God has given you to alleviate the burden of someone who is genuinely in need.

– Luke 6:20-26 –



Day 5: Citizens of an Upside Down Kingdom
Reading: Luke 6:20-26; Philippians 3:20; Colossians 3:1-4

- **Devotional:** Paul declared that our citizenship is in heaven. That means we are resident aliens in this world – present here, but belonging somewhere else. The sermon Jesus preached on the plain was not a list of suggestions. It was a description of what kingdom life actually looks like when it is lived with full conviction. The poor are blessed. The hungry will be filled. The mourning will laugh. The hated are in good company. And those who have built their entire lives around the comforts of this world have received all they are going to get. Living upside down in a right side up world is not easy, but it is the call. It is the way of the kingdom.
- **Reflection Question:** Looking honestly at your daily life, which direction are you oriented – toward the values of the kingdom or toward the values of the surrounding culture?
- **Practical Application:** Choose one specific kingdom value from this week's readings – humility, dependence, generosity, faithfulness under rejection – and make a deliberate, concrete commitment to practice it in a visible way this coming week.

– Luke 6:20-26 –



Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank You for revealing through Jesus that Your kingdom operates according to a radically different value system than the world. Forgive us for allowing worldly standards of success, security, wealth, and significance to shape our hearts. Help us embrace the upside-down kingdom, where the poor are blessed, the hungry are satisfied, those who grieve are comforted, and those persecuted for following Jesus are promised a great reward.

Guard our hearts against the false security of wealth, possessions, popularity, and worldly accomplishments. Teach us to hold our earthly blessings loosely while holding tightly to You. Never allow us to become so comfortable with what we have that we lose compassion for those who are hurting, hungry, grieving, or in need.

Father, reorder our priorities, reshape our desires, and deepen our dependence on You. May our greatest treasure never be what we accumulate, but our relationship with You. Give us eyes to recognize the overlooked, hearts that are moved by compassion, and hands willing to give generously.

May our lives reflect the values of Your upside-down kingdom, where our greatest satisfaction is found in You rather than in the temporary comforts and affirmations of this world.

In Jesus' precious name, Amen.


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