

ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENTS | LUKE 6:20-26 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 8/17/2025

I. The Be Attitudes (20-23) | II. The Woe Attitudes (24-26)

INTRO: After an entire night in prayer Jesus has just chosen His twelve apostles from among a multitude of disciples (12-16). Now He is about to give His First Recorded Sermon. – In His sermon, Jesus teaches how those who repent and believe should live in anticipation of the future kingdom, which would call for:

ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENTS – P/A: Our personal Attitudes and Actions should change when we follow Christ!

I. THE BEATTITUDES (20-23) – Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7) is probably the most famous of all of Jesus teachings. It has had an extended effect on individuals and human civilizations. Its core message stresses extreme love, compassion, and a higher standard of holiness than was previously practiced, thus encouraging believers to live the values of God's kingdom.

In our text today, we see that Luke provides a much shorter version of it, which many refer to as The Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:17-49). – The recorded pronouncements, though similar to Matthew's account, were not exactly the same, nor was their meaning. (Remember, Dr. Luke gathered information to provide an orderly account (Luke 1:3), where he seems to focus more on the social dealings of the Christ)

- Matthew's Version seems to address the multitudes, while Luke's abbreviated version is spoken directly to His disciples while on "a level place" (v.17). (Interesting: Compare the pronouns of each account)
- What I found to be most interesting is that Luke's account provides 4 Beatitudes and 4 Woes. But Matthew's account provides 8 Beatitudes without woes until (Matt 23), where he later provides 8 detailed Woes against the Scribes and Pharisees for their Hypocritical Religious Practices.
- Regardless of audience, Jesus' teaching made clear that Kingdom Living required a Kingdom Attitude! And since most were misinformed of the way, an Attitude Adjustment was needed.

A. BLESSED PERSPECTIVE (20a) – READ: Though Jesus was speaking to the entire crowd, the beatitudes of (20–23) were directed to the disciples. He begins His sermon with mention of WHO are truly "Blessed."

1. Blessed {Markarios} means "happy," or "enjoying the bliss of heaven." – It can also refer to the special joy and favor that comes upon those who experience God's grace. (Eph 1:3), Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ...
2. The Blessed Perspective is found in Jesus Christ and manifests within the character of True Believers. The attributes spoken by Jesus later became known as the "Be-Attitudes..." not necessarily something that we practice, rather something that we already are, or should "Be." – P/A: If you are a true believer in Jesus Christ, then your perspective will be a happy one (blessed perspective no matter the circumstances).

B. HUMBLE PERSPECTIVES (20b-22) – In these verses Jesus lists Four Blessings, which emphasize the true spiritual values of life in contrast to the faulty values of the world. You will notice that all of these attitudes, along with Matthew's more extensive list, are ROOTED IN HUMILITY. Notice the First...

1. Those who are POOR (20b) – To be "poor," {ptochos} means to be destitute of wealth, influence, position and honor in this world. – (Matt 5:3) provides us with a bit more insight as to "who" the "poor" are... those poor in spirit. Those who recognize their Spiritual Bankruptcy!

- To the "poor," Jesus promised the Kingdom of God. This was especially a blessing, because within the walls of God's kingdom every provision would be met! – From Shelter to food, and from love to eternal life, only the poor in spirit will inherit this blessing! (All are poor and needy, but many fail to recognize it!)

The Second humble perspective that Jesus mentions is...

2. Those who HUNGER (21a) – Since Jesus is obviously speaking of **spiritual attributes**, we must not interpret this **Hunger** to be a physical hunger. Matthew describes it as a **hunger for righteousness!** (Matt 5:6)

- a. To have a **hunger for righteousness** means that you **desire the right ways of the Lord** (As opposed to our own self-righteousness – cf. Rom 10:3, Phil 3:9)
- b. God promises SATISFACTION to ALL who desire His ways, (Isa 55:1-2) *Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come; buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2. Why do you spend money for what is not bread and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance.* – The promise that Jesus gives to those who Hunger, is that **they will be filled!** (Just like tribulation saints – tt. Rev 7:16)

The Third humble perspective that Jesus speaks of is...

3. Those who WEEP (21b): Webster's Dictionary defines the word **"WEEP"** as; **1:** The expression of deep sorrow, usually by shedding tears: **BEWAIL** **2:** to pour forth (tears) from the eyes, or **3:** to exude (a fluid) slowly: **OOZE**

- a. The **Cause of Weeping** is **our sinful condition** and its current effects in this world. **Sin causes Sorrow!** Sin impacts everybody and should also cause all to Long for a Savior Who can deliver us and comfort us.
 - The illustration that comes to mind here is when **Mary Magdalene** was sitting at Jesus' tomb, **weeping** because someone had taken away her Lord; (John 20:11-18). As she sat there weeping, Jesus appeared to her, and **her weeping was immediately changed!** And **her tears were wiped away!**
- b. This is exactly what Jesus promises those who are seeking Him **NOW**; i.e., those who are **weeping for His presence** in their lives. All of their **perplexities**, **problems**, and **pain**, will be ultimately **turned into joy and laughter at the return of our Lord.** (Are you a disciple who is Seeking & Weeping? Longing for Jesus? Oozing tears?)
 - (Psalm 126:5-6), *Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He, who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*

P/A – Jesus use the word **NOW** in (v.21), was to emphasize that **Hunger and Weeping** will only be during our present life as believers. **Paradox's that are done away by the divine comfort of God.**

The Final humble perspective that Jesus speaks of pertains to blessings for...

4. Those who are REJECTED (22) – The first question that comes to mind here is... **How can a man be considered "blessed"** when he is **being Hated, Excluded, Reviled, and Rejected?** – In fact, Christians soon faced intense **social, religious, and political opposition**, being **branded as outsiders** who defied Roman norms and posed a threat to the established order. – If you are a disciple of Jesus Christ, the same treatment is to be expected! (2 Tim 3:12), *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*

- a. After experiencing much of this himself, the **Apostle Peter** later wrote these truths about being **rejected and persecuted** for the name of Jesus Christ: (1 Pet 2:19), *it is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, Suffering Wrongfully.* And (1 Pet 4:14), *If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.*
- b. Only a **perspective** which is rooted in **True Humility**, can obtain the blessed state of this **"Be Attitude."** – Even though we would naturally want to defend ourselves, the **blessedness manifests when we rest in the Lord to be our defense.** You may say, *"How is that considered a blessing?"* Well, the blessing realized when the **Attitude Adjustment kicks in!** It is a...

C. JOYOUS PERSPECTIVE (23) – Jesus tells us that when this happens to us, **we should REJOICE** at that **very moment!** **WHY?** Because it is already recorded in heaven! On top of that, you are **considered blessed** and placed on the same level of the prophets of old. (We must understand that **God is aware of all suffering!**)

CLOSING THOUGHT: The Beatitudes listed here are **Inner-Attitudes** that every Christian must possess if we are to experience God's Blessing in our daily lives. **A humble person is the only that God can save (Isa 57:15)** *For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."* – **As a Modern-day Christian, do you have this Blessed Perspective?** (The best is yet to come!)

II. THE WOE ATTITUDES (24-26) – As Jesus mentioned the **Four Humble Perspectives**; which in turn would receive ultimate blessings in the end, He now provides **Four Opposite Attitudes**, which will receive **FOUR WOES** as a result! – Webster's Dictionary defines the word "WOE" as; **1 : a condition of deep suffering from misfortune, affliction, or grief 2 : ruinous trouble : CALAMITY, AFFLICTION, SORROW**

A. IGNORANT PERSPECTIVES (24-26) – **READ:** Jesus speaks of those who are least esteemed in Christ's new society. Tragically, these are the very ones who are counted great in the world today! – **Did you notice the Contrast in Attitudes and Actions:**

Rich Now vs. Poor Now
Full Now vs. Hungry Now
Laughing Now vs. Weeping Now
Accepted Now vs. Rejected Now

Let's examine the first...

1. Woe to you who are RICH (24) – Notice first that Jesus does not mention RICH "in Spirit." This is because He is referring to *"material blessings"* which are prioritized **NOW!**

a. At that time there were many who had serious moral problems connected with their hoarding of wealth. As several thousand people would die daily of starvation, these were **more concerned with feeding themselves and gaining wealth** rather than helping the poor, needy, and hungry (cf. *Matt 25:45*)

b. **This serves as a WARNING!** – These words of the Lord Jesus should be pondered carefully by Christians who are tempted to lay up treasures on earth, to hoard and scrimp for a rainy day. To do so living for the wrong kingdom (cf. *James 5:1-6*) speaks of this **Wicked Perspective!** – Jesus gave the parable of the rich fool to illustrate in **(Luke 12:13-20,21)** *'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'*²¹ **"So is he who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."** (cf. *Prov 11:28; Mark 10:24; 1 Tim 6:17-18*)

c. Jesus mentions that blessings from their wealth will be the Only Comfort that they will experience!

The Next Three principles are quite similar in woeful results...

2. Those who are FULL NOW (25a), will find themselves **Hungry Later!** – For the non-believer, this is clearly illustrated in the parable of **Lazarus and the Rich Man (Luke 16:19-31)**. – For **the scarcely saved**, there is coming a day when rewards are given for faithful and sacrificial discipleship, they will be lacking.

3. Those who LAUGH NOW (25b), will find themselves **Vehemently Weeping Later!** – Solomon taught that there is A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance... (*Eccl 3:4*). But there are **MANY** whose lives are a continuous cycle of amusement, entertainment, and pleasure. – They act as if life was made for Fun and Frolic for Parties and Pleasure. – **They are drunken by worldliness (1 John 2:15-17)** – **Jesus scorned the world's values! He exalted what the world despises and rejects what the world admires.**

4. Those who are ACCEPTED by all men (26) – When you live this way, you **"CLICK"** only with those who are like you! – **But the prioritization of your riches, food, and laughter, place you in a category of men who were considered displeasing to the Lord. Men, who actually persecuted the prophets!** – This WOE serves as a warning against seeking the approval of the world and compromising one's values or faith to gain popularity. – The **Haman's** and the **Herod Agrippas'** of this world love the accolades of men, but the results are the same... Gallows and Gut bursting worms! (cf. *Esther 7:10; Acts 12: 23*)

B. IGNORANT CONSEQUENCES – These **FOUR WOES** share common truths. You have the ability to choose good or evil, to choose life or death. You have the freedom to live with a Bad Attitude in this world, or to live with the Beatitudes of Christ and His Kingdom. *And you will reap what you sow!*

- In closing, I would like to quote from Isaiah who provides a sharp contrast of the **two parties mentioned**. Those who only care for themselves will be **hungry** and **will never be satisfied**. – (Isa 65:13-14) *Behold, My servants shall eat, but you shall be hungry; Behold, My servants shall drink, but you shall be thirsty; Behold, My servants shall rejoice, but you shall be ashamed; 14. Behold, My servants shall sing for joy of heart, But you shall cry for sorrow of heart, and wail for grief of spirit.*
- **What is your Attitude as a follower of Christ?** Are you still a selfish, spoiled little brat, hoarding everything that you can get your hands on; concerned only with the well-being of your own interests? Or are you one who is manifesting properly the **“Be Attitudes?”** Attitudes that are based in humility and meekness, **seeking to bless others** in whatever way possible?
- Perhaps this sermon has provoked you to an **ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT**.

CLOSING THOUGHTS: Life is built on character, and character is built on decisions. But our decisions are based on our values, which in turn are founded upon our beliefs. **Visible actions are a direct result of our beliefs and values!**