Willing Poverty and Dangerous Riches – Luke 6:20-26

Most of us have been quietly discipled by a world that tells us security is financial. Enough to get by. Enough for a rainy day. Enough to pass on. 'This is the blessed life' and this is the air we breathe.

But in Luke 6, Jesus looks upon his disciples - those who have just walked away from businesses, livelihoods, and financial futures to follow him — and he calls them blessed. How can a life of willing poverty be to us the blessing of God?

For personal reflection/ community discussion:

1. Imagine you're a financial advisor. On the same day, two clients come to you seeking advice; one a successful business looking to sell up and travel the world, the other, a 78 year old impoverished widow who wishes to give what little she has away. How would you advise them? Which of them is wise? Who has the better plan? How might Jesus' opinion differ to our instincts?

2. What shapes our financial instincts? Consider our formation and what it is that's made us who we are with money. What moments, factors or people have influenced us for good and for bad?

3. Peter had a home, a business, enough to get by — and he left it. Levi had a fortune — and he left it. Jesus looks at both of them and calls them blessed. But let's not rush past the cost; there would have been nights of anxiety, moments of regret, a wife wondering about the kids' future. Where in your own life might Jesus be asking you to loosen your grip on something financial — and what is the fear underneath the resistance that you haven't yet named out loud?

4. What gospel truths can we cling to to soothe our fear for provision? (Cf. Luke 12: 21 - 31) (If you're struggling to believe these promises, take a moment to acknowledge them to your Father and ask for faith to help your unbelief.)

5. (For personal reflection) William Borden was 25, worth $35 million in today's money, and gave every penny away because he believed what was coming made it trivial. Most of us believe the resurrection intellectually but live financially as though this life is all there is. What would have to change in your financial decisions — not your theology — for your spending and giving to reflect that you genuinely believe you have an inheritance coming that makes everything here look small?