



Today's Message

Date: May 31, 2020
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: ***Christ's Kingdom Message, Part 1***

Text: Luke 6:17–26 (ESV)

¹⁷ And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸ who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

²⁰ And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

Introduction: Luke includes a condensed version of Jesus' famed "Sermon on the Mount." It is his kingdom message and extends all the way through chapter six. Today's sermon text serves as an introduction to the message. It begins where the sermon ends, dividing people into two groups.

Today's take-home truth: There are two kinds of people: the blessed and the cursed; Christ's message is the dividing line.

I. The setting for Christ's kingdom message 17-19

- A. The place: Jesus met the crowds on the mountain. 17a
- B. The people: Jesus' apostles, followers, and many more were there. 17b
- C. The purpose: 18-19
 - 1. The people came to hear his teaching . . .
 - 2. and receive his touch,
 - 3. but Jesus was there to preach the truth.

II. Christ's kingdom message: Blessing and cursing. 20-26

- A. God's blessing awaits those who trust Christ's message: 20-23
 - 1. They recognize their spiritual poverty. 20
 - 2. They crave the presence of God. 21b
 - 3. They shed tears of godly sorrow. 21b
 - 4. They endure persecution because of Christ. 22-23

B. God's cursing awaits those who trust themselves.
24-26

1. They believe they are spiritually rich. 24
2. They think they have all they need. 25a
3. They look to the future with smug self-confidence. 25b
4. They trust the flattery of men. 26