

Investigating Jesus

The Sermon on the Plain – (Blessings and Woes | Loving Your Enemies)

March 3, 2024 / Dan Solofra

How does God's upside-down kingdom work?

¹² One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. ¹³ When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: ¹⁴ Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, ¹⁵ Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶ Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. **Luke 6:12-16, NIV**

God uses ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things.

¹⁷ He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸ who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, ¹⁹ and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. **Luke 6:17-19, NIV**

Jesus' teaching overshadows his miracles.

²⁰ Looking at his disciples, he said:
"Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.
Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

²³ "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because
great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their
ancestors treated the prophets. **Luke 6:20-23, NIV**

Those who pursue heavenly reward and God's
approval are blessed.

²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

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

²⁶ Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false
prophets. **Luke 6:24-26, NIV**

Those who pursue earthly reward and human
approval are cursed.

MEMORY VERSE

²⁷ "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. ³¹ Do to others as you would have them do to you. Luke 6:27-31, NIV

I see other people, even my enemies, as those who need my help, not my hate.

³² "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:32-36, NIV

I love others in spite of who they are.

I love others because of who I am in Jesus.

³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:36, NIV

My next step:

I will enjoy the love that Jesus has shown to me. I will pray for and show love to an enemy in my life.

What's your next step?

Mark it on your connection card.

Group Questions

Describe a time when someone showed you surprising kindness when you didn't deserve it.

How did this act of grace and mercy affect you?

Read Luke 6:20-26.

Why do you think difficult circumstances bless you, while things we consider blessings can actually be a curse?

Have you experienced this in your life?

Read Luke 6:27-36

What is unconditional love?

How has Jesus shown unconditional love to you?

How can I show unconditional love to others?