

Message Notes

Blessings and Woes

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction - "life in 1936..."

Today's Message:

The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached:
The Great Reversal: Blessings and Woes
Luke 6:17-26

The Setting

Luke 6:17-19

"Level Place" sermon vrs. The "Sermon on the Mount"

Who is there?

What's motivating them to be there?

Great Reversal #1 ~ Poor = Blessed. Rich = Woe.

Luke 6:20, 24

**Great Reversal #2 ~ Hungry = Blessed.
Well-fed = Woe.**

Luke 6:21a, 25

**Great Reversal #3 ~ Mourners = Blessed.
Carefree = Woe.**

Luke 6:21b, 26

**Great Reversal #4 ~ Excluded = Blessed.
Spoken well of = Woe.**

Luke 6:23, 27

What does it mean to be blessed (happy)?

C. S. Lewis
~ *God in the Dock*

~ *Mere Christianity*

Augustine

John 6:66-68

Luke 18:28-30

**Gospel Application - "Do you want to be blessed
by Jesus Christ?"**

Luke 6:17-26

17He 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 coast of Tyre and Sidon, 18who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, 19and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. 20Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 22Blessed are you when men 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 fathers treated the prophets. 24"But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. 25Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. 26Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets."

Proverbs 30:8-9

8Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. 9Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

John 6:66-68

66From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. 67" You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. 68Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

Luke 18:28-30

28Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!" 29"Truly I tell you," Jesus said to them, "no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God 30will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life."

The Gospel of
LUKE

The King and His Kingdom
Luke 3:21 to Luke 9:50

Luke 9:51 (ESV)

When the days drew near for him to be taken up,
he set his face to go to Jerusalem.

Luke 19:28-44

²⁸After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ³⁰“Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’”

Luke 19:28-44

³²Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

³⁴They replied, “The Lord needs it.”

³⁵They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. ³⁶As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

Luke 19:28-44

³⁷When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

[ALL READ TOGETHER]

³⁸“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

Luke 19:28-44

³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus,
“Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

⁴⁰“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet,
the stones will cry out.”

Luke 19:28-44

⁴¹As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ⁴²and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but now it is hidden from your eyes. ⁴³The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ⁴⁴They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

THE
BOYS
IN THE
BOAT

Nine Americans and Their
Epic Quest for Gold at the
1936 Berlin Olympics

Daniel James Brown

The Gospel of
LUKE

The King and His Kingdom
Luke 3:21 to Luke 9:50

Jesus' Mission Statement

Luke 4:18-19

¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

Jesus' Mission Statement

Who is receptive to Jesus?

- Luke 4:18 – Poor, prisoners, blind, oppressed
- Luke 4:33 – The Demoniac
- Luke 4:38 – Peter's mother-in-law
- Luke 4:40 – The sick & diseased
- Luke 5:8 – Peter, a sinful one
- Luke 5:12 – Man with leprosy
- Luke 5:18 – Paralyzed man
- Luke 5:27 – Levi, tax collector

Who is rejecting Jesus?

- Synagogue attenders
- Hometown friends
- Religious leaders



Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷He 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 coast of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil · · spirits were cured, ¹⁹and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

Luke 6:17-26

²⁰Looking at his disciples, he said:

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

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

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

Luke 6:17-26

²²Blessed 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 fathers
treated the prophets.

Luke 6:17-26

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

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

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

Luke 6:17-26

²⁶Woe to you when all people
speak well of you,
for that is how their fathers
treated the false prophets.”

Today's Message:

The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached (pt 1)

"The Great Reversal: Blessings and Woes"

Luke 6:17-26

Jesus's gospel in Luke turns conventional values on their heads; those whom the world congratulates Jesus pities, and those whom the world regards as losers Jesus declares to have gotten it right.



~ R. T. France, *Luke*, ed. Mark L. Strauss and John H. Walton, Teach the Text Commentary Series (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2013), 1408

The Setting

Luke 6:17-19

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The Setting

The “Level Place” sermon vs. “The Sermon on the Mount”

Luke 6:17-19

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The Setting

Who is there?

Luke 6:17-19

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The Setting

What's motivating them to be around Jesus?

Luke 6:17-19

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Great Reversal #1

Poor = Blessed *Rich = Woe*

Luke 6:20

²⁰Looking at his disciples,
he said:

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

Luke 6:24

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

In the Greek world the adj. makarios denoted a person's inner happiness. When the beatitude-form developed there, it extolled the good fortune of persons or exalted them because of the good fortune that they have had.

The woes are minatory in nature and pronounce the opposite of the beatitudes, viz. displeasure, pain, or grief.

~ Joseph A. Fitzmyer, *The Gospel according to Luke I-IX: Introduction, Translation, and Notes*, vol. 28, Anchor Yale Bible (New Haven; London: Yale University Press, 2008), 633, 636.



Is wealth wrong, or bad for us?

Is wealth wrong, or bad for us?

Proverbs 30:8-9

⁸Keep falsehood and lies far from me;
give me neither poverty nor riches,
but give me only my daily bread.

⁹Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you
and say, 'Who is the Lord?'

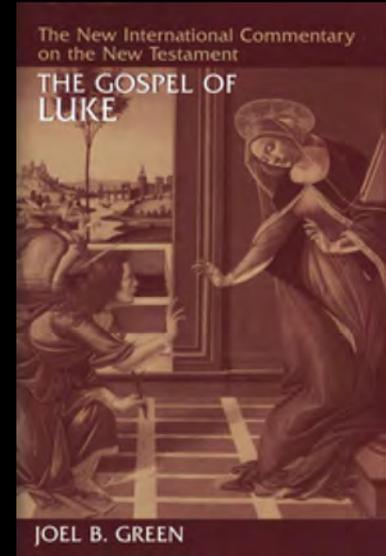
Or I may become poor and steal,
and so dishonor the name of my God.

Historically we know that God at times gave wealth to Israel as a blessing. When he delivered his people from Egypt, he blessed them with the Egyptians' willing plunder (cf. Exodus 12:35, 36), and then he brought them to a land "flowing with milk and honey" (numerous Scriptures—for example, Deuteronomy 8:7–10). By the time of King David and King Solomon, national wealth was seen as a sign of divine blessing (cf. 1 Chronicles 29:13–16). In addition to the Old Testament evidence, human experience teaches us that being poor is a miserable situation. Anyone who has known genuine poverty will testify that it is a humiliating experience. If money is power, then the poor are powerless, and their powerlessness is regularly exploited. Ask any of the world's poverty-stricken if it is a blessed state and see what they say.



In effect, he insists, you who are poor are accustomed to living on the margins of society and you who are rich routinely find yourselves surrounded by friends as you use your resources to solidify your position in society, but the reality under which you have been operating has been overturned. By asserting that the kingdom of God belongs to the poor, then, Jesus is re-defining the working assumptions, the values that determine daily existence.

~ Joel B. Green, *The Gospel of Luke*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1997), 267-268.



Great Reversal #2

Hungry = Blessed *Well-fed = Woe*

Luke 6:21a

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

Luke 6:25a

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

Great Reversal #3

Mourners = Blessed *Carefree = Woe*

Luke 6:21b

Blessed are you who weep
now,
for you will laugh.

Luke 6:25b

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

Great Reversal #4

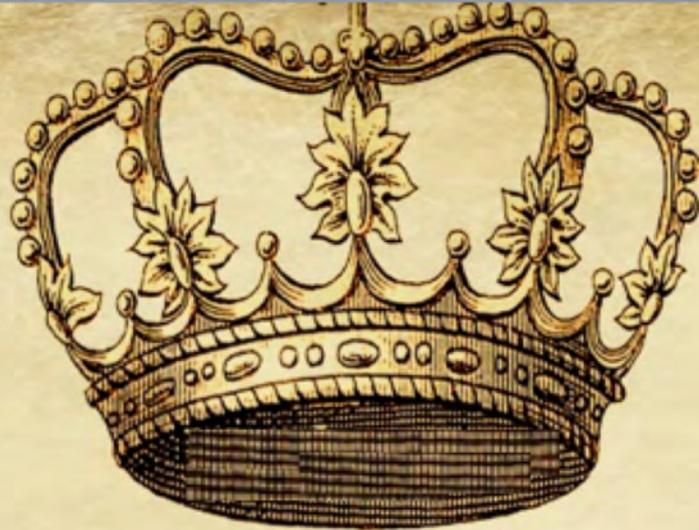
Excluded = Blessed Spoken well of = Woe

Luke 6:22-23

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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
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Luke 6:26

²⁶Woe to you when all
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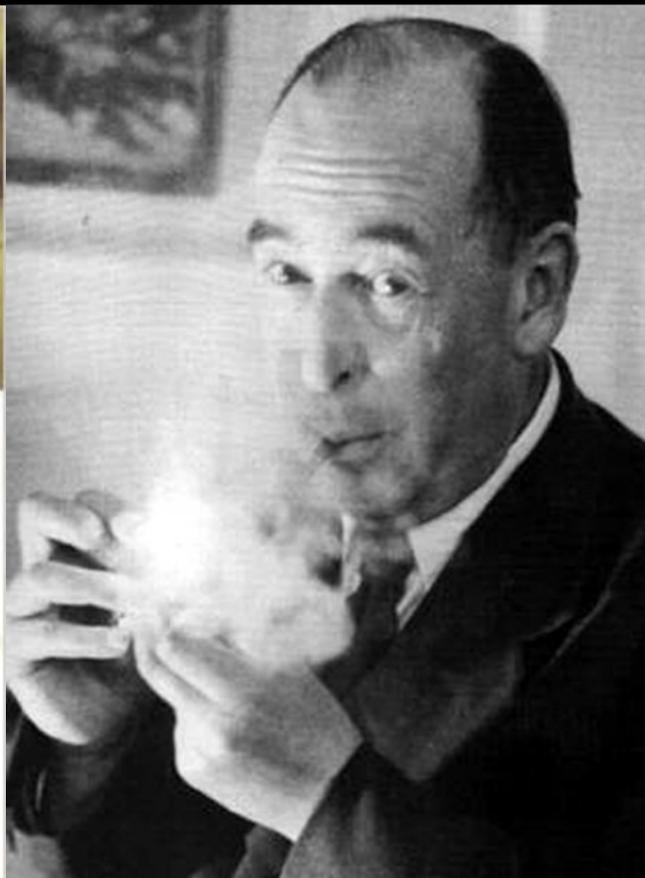
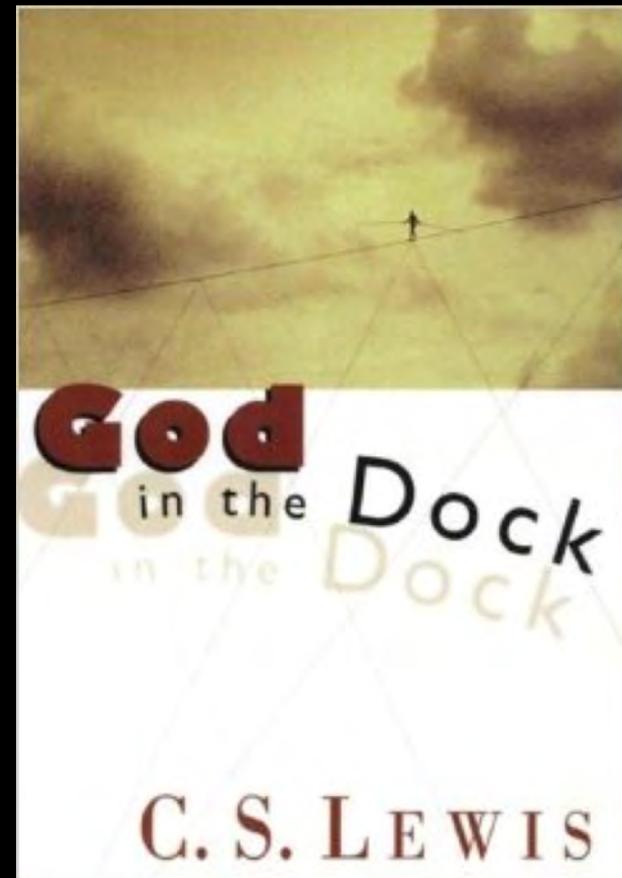
BLESSINGS

PHARRELL WILLIAMS

HAPPY

| FROM DESPICABLE ME 2 |



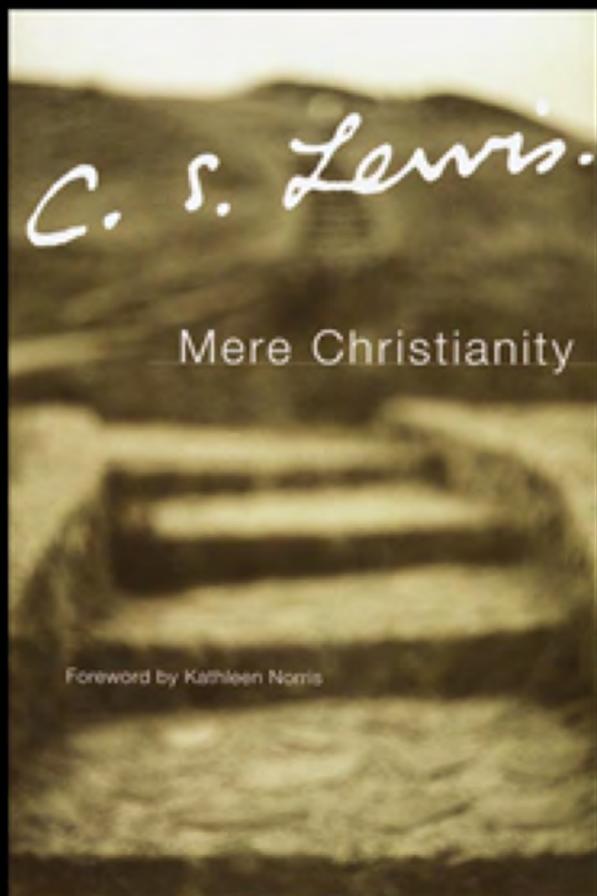


“Answers to Questions on Christianity”

Question 11

“Which of the religions of the world gives to its followers the greatest happiness?”

While it lasts, the religion of worshipping oneself is the best. I have an elderly acquaintance of about eighty, who has lived a life of unbroken selfishness and self-admiration from the earliest years, and is, more or less, I regret to say, one of the happiest men I know. From the moral point of view it is very difficult! I am not approaching the question from that angle. As you perhaps know, I haven't always been a Christian. I didn't go to religion to make me happy. I always knew a bottle of Port would do that. If you want a religion to make you feel really comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity. I am certain there must be a patent American article on the market which will suit you far better, but I can't give any advice on it.



The moment you have a self at all, there is a possibility of putting yourself first — wanting to be the centre — wanting to be God, in fact. That was the sin of Satan: and that was the sin he taught the human race....

What Satan put into the heads of our remote ancestors was the idea that they could 'be like gods' – could set up on their own as if they had created themselves – be their own masters – invent some sort of happiness for themselves outside God, apart from God. And out of that hopeless attempt has come nearly all that we call human history – money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery – the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.

The reason why it can never succeed is this. God made us: invented us as a man invents an engine. A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. Now God designed the human machine to run on Himself. He Himself is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn, or the food our spirits were designed to feed on. There is no other. That is why it is just no good asking God to make us happy in our own way without bothering about religion. God cannot give us a happiness and peace apart from Himself, because it is not there. There is no such thing.

John 6:66-68

⁶⁶From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

⁶⁷“You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

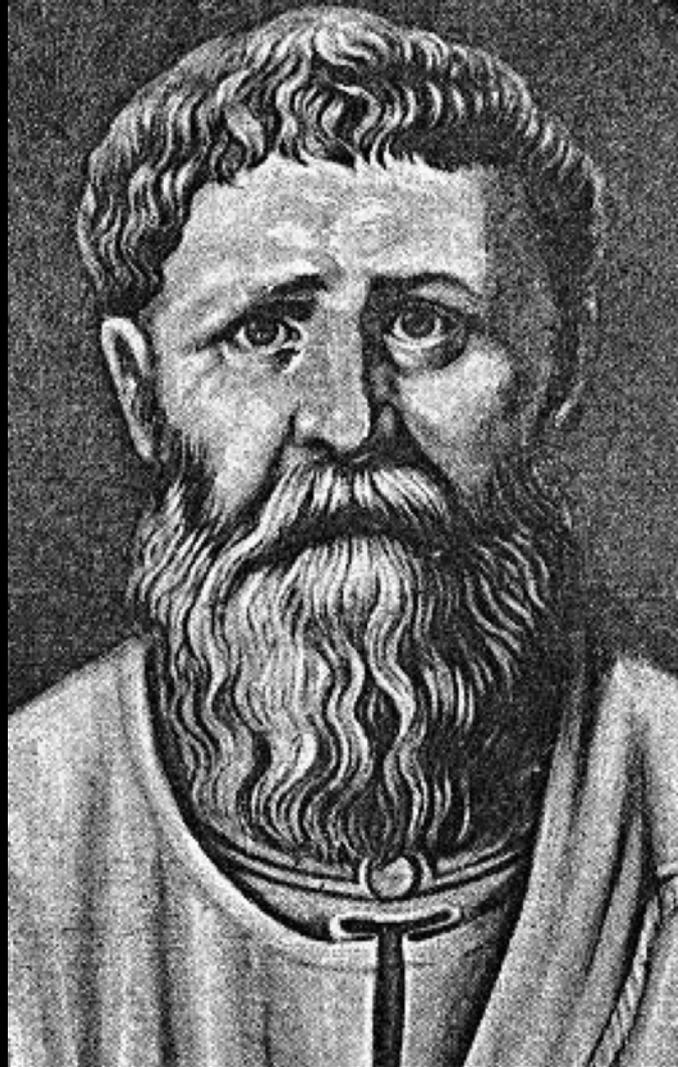
Luke 18:28-30

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“Where your pleasure is,
there is your treasure:
where your treasure, there
your heart; where your
heart, there your
happiness”

~ St. Augustine



Gospel Application

Do you want to be blessed by Jesus Christ?

Give up yourself and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favourite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end submit with every fibre of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in.

