

THE WORD BECAME FLESH



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#13 – The Beatitudes Luke 6:17-36

PICTURES (Note: Inserted in brackets at the appropriate place in the lesson is the number of the picture to show the students.)

13-1 Jesus teaching the crowd

REVIEW (Before teaching lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) What does the parable of the wineskin mean? According to the Pharisees what was unlawful to do on the Sabbath? What did Jesus say is right to do on the Sabbath?
- **Big Question Review:** What was Jesus' problem with the Pharisees? Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Matthew 23:23
The Pharisees pretended to be good but really weren't.

²³ "(Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness.) You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

In this lesson Jesus will teach important spiritual truths.

Luke 6:17-19 (picture 13-1)

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.

Why were the people there with Jesus? (It was because of his power to heal that people flocked to him. They wanted to touch him and be healed.

Do you remember what Jesus said was the reason he healed people? The purpose of Jesus healing people was to show that he was God and had the power to forgive sin.

Why did Jesus want the people to come to him? Jesus wanted people to come to him because he spoke the truth about God.

Jesus told the people things that were hard to both understand and accept. These teachings are included throughout the Gospels. The teachings in Luke begin with what are called the beatitudes. The word beatitude refers to the perfect happiness and inner peace that will be enjoyed by the soul in heaven. The four beatitudes Luke includes all begin with the word "blessed."

What does it mean to be blessed? Blessed refers to ultimate well-being, which is the state of being made holy. We tend to think of it terms of happiness or good luck.

What is the difference between blessing and happiness? Happiness is a fleeting emotion. It is more dependent on circumstances. Blessing is related to the presence and provision of God in one's life.

Luke 6:20-26 – The Beatitudes

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.

²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.

²⁴But 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.

Draw the chart below on a board and fill it out with the students. Discuss what it means to lack now compared to what we will have in eternity and vice versa.

BLESSING			Woe		
Verse	Now	Future	Verse	Now	Future
20	poor	kingdom of God	24	rich	kingdom of God
21a	hungry	satisfied	25a	well fed	satisfied
21b	sorrowful	laughter	25b	laughter	laughter
22-23	rejection	reward in heaven	26	acceptance	reward in heaven

What are the Beatitudes telling us to focus on? Eternity, the things of God, not the things of the world.

What does it mean to be poor on earth? Lack possessions and basic comforts or provision.

What does it mean to have the kingdom of God? We are under God's authority and receive his provision. We have everything God has and wants to give to us.

Why will those who are rich on earth have nothing in heaven? They have pursued the world and neglected God and his truth. They have set their eyes on material wealth rather than God. (This is a generalization, which means it isn't necessarily true for everyone who is rich. It depends on what one is pursuing.)

What should we be hungry for on earth? God and the things of God.

How will we be satisfied? In heaven we will be with God himself and therefore fully satisfied.

Why will those who are well fed now hunger in eternity? Again, they look to the material world to satisfy rather than God himself. (This is a generalization, which means it isn't necessarily true for everyone who is well fed. It depends on what one is pursuing.)

What should we weep about on earth? sin, suffering, evil, our own pain, etc. That earth isn't what God intended it to be.

How will we laugh in heaven? There won't be any sin or suffering. It will be full of joy because of God's presence.

Why will those who laugh now mourn later? They are enjoying the pleasures of sin and rebellion against God now, which means separation from him and all that is good in eternity.

Why will we be rewarded in heaven for having been rejected on earth? We will have served Christ faithfully. We haven't sought after the world for affirmation; we have only wanted to please God.

Why will those who are well thought of now be rejected later? Pleasing and being accepted by people was more important than pleasing God. God rejects those who reject him.

From the Beatitudes the teaching transitions into how we are to relate to others.

Luke 6:27-28

27"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

Who are our enemies? Those who are opposed to us and who try to hurt us.
What are we to do to our enemies? Good What does that mean we do? We always treat them in a right manner and want what is good for them. We want to take them from a lower place to a better place. We want to be of benefit to them.

Luke 6:29-31

29If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. 30Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31Do to others as you would have them do to you.

What does Christ mean when he says if we are struck on one cheek to give the other cheek? We don't hit back or retaliate. We do whatever we can to maintain peace.

What does he mean when he says to give to whoever asks? We don't struggle over material possessions. We let things go. We recognize that being right with God has greater value.

What does it mean to do to others what you would have them do to you? We treat others in the same manner we would want to be treated. We only do to others the things we would want them to do to us. We don't do anything we wouldn't want someone to do to us. This is called the Golden Rule. If everyone followed it, we wouldn't have conflict between us.

Luke 6:32-36

32If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' love those who love them. 33And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even `sinners' do that. 34And 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. 35But 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 sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Why don't we get any credit if we love those who love us? It doesn't cost us anything. There is no element of personal sacrifice. It is easy to love those who love you.

Who is God kind to? God pours forth on all people whether or not they love him. His general provision extends to everyone.

How does God show mercy? He provided Christ's sacrifice for all men. He forgives sin. He doesn't punish us as our sins deserve.

How can we show mercy to others? We forgive others whether or not we think they deserve it or ask us for forgiveness.

The Beatitudes and the command to love our enemies call us to a level of Christian living (righteousness) that we can't do apart from the work of Christ in us. Only as we die to self and come alive in Jesus can we live a life that pleases him. We have to be filled with his Spirit, put to death our old nature and devote ourselves to him. When we do those things, we may suffer on earth but we will receive great reward in heaven. We look to eternity for our reward.

What is the way we are to treat others through Christ's work in us? ²⁷*"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.*

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** Who are the people who are blessed? Who has already received their reward? How are we to treat others? Who are we to love?
- **Thought Questions:** What are ways people mistreat other people? How do we usually respond to people who mistreat us? Are we generally more concerned about how others treat us or how we treat others? Why is that? Does doing good to someone mean you always do what they want? What does it mean to do good? What is good we can always do for someone else? What standard of behavior is Jesus setting for us? How do we live up to his standard? What keeps us from being like God? How do we grow in our likeness of God?
- **Prayer:** Thank Jesus that he is calling us to live a life that pleases God. Pray that you would die to self and come alive in him so that you can do what is good and right regardless of how people treat you.
- **The Big Question:** **What is the level of righteousness Jesus has called us to?** Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse:** **Luke 6:27-28, 31**
We are to treat others the way we want to be treated.

²⁷ *"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you.*

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

What did you learn from this lesson? How can you put into practice what you learned?

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the booklet and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse in the inside.

- ★ **This Week's Big Question:** Have the students fill in the blanks for the way the memory verse answers the big question.
We are to treat others the way we want to be treated.

- ★ **Coloring Page:** Color the lesson picture.

- **Craft:** Double-sided Medallion

As a reminder of what we are to focus on while on earth, make a double-sided medallion with a world on one side and an infinity symbol on other. Hang on a string to wear as a necklace.

Materials: cover stock paper, colored pencils, string, paper hole punch, scissors, glue sticks

Preparation: Run off Craft 13 on cover stock paper. Cut apart. Cut string into necklace lengths.

Instructions: Color in the earth. Cut out the two circles and glue them together. Punch a hole at the top and hang them from a string.

- **Game:** Role play

Instructions: Act out how to respond as Jesus would in different situations.

JOURNAL

The daily journal is included in the booklet for the students to complete at home. It has six poetic readings and related Bible verses. It would be beneficial for the teacher to read through and be familiar with its content.