

## Counter-Cultural Kingdom

(Luke 6:20-36)

[Series] Resonate: Tune into Jesus' frequency to amplify the gospel in your life & church, and to impact the culture.

### Who are you? Kingdom identity [Luke 6:20-26]

- Two categories of people: Those who receive a blessing or a woe, depending on what kingdom they belong to.
  - Identity defines what your values & lifestyle will be.
  - The values/ethics of Jesus' Kingdom are diametrically opposed to the kingdoms of the earth.
  - Citizens/lifestyle of the earthly kingdom receive woe; citizens/lifestyle of heaven are blessed.
  - Jesus teaches counter-cultural ways to handle wealth, comfort, power & fame based on Kingdom citizenship.
- Jesus is distinguishing between happiness & blessedness.
  - Happiness is circumstantial & temporary; blessedness is lasting & based on God who does not change.
  - For those whose identity is rooted in this world, this life is as close to heaven as you will ever get.
  - For those whose identity is rooted in Jesus as King, this life is as close to hell as you will ever get.

### Kingdom reversal of wealth

- [6:20] Those who follow Jesus & are poor in this life will receive the riches of His Kingdom.
  - Being poor *does not* make you more righteous than being rich.
  - Unrighteous poor: Those who are poor due to laziness or consequences from their own injustice.
  - Kingdom poor: Those who love God, work honestly, but have little.
  - The Kingdom poor will be lavishly provided for [cf. 2 Cor 8:9].
- [6:24] Reversal: Woe to those who worship money as the center of their identity.
  - All they've accumulated in this life is all they're going to get.
  - They tried to accumulate their own Kingdom/heaven, so this is as close to it as they're going to get.
- Application: Have long-term (eternal) thinking when it comes to wealth.
  - Instead of worshiping your wealth, submit it to Jesus' counter-cultural kingdom values.
  - If you get your values around money lined up with Jesus, you'll get everything else in life lined up because your heart tends to follow your treasure [cf. Matt 6:21].

### Kingdom reversal of comfort

- [6:21a] Blessed are the hungry in the kingdom, because you will be satisfied (physically & spiritually).
  - [Luke 9] The multitudes come to see Jesus without any food, because they have none, so Jesus feeds them.
  - In the Kingdom, receive choicest meats/wines [Isa 25:6] & sit at the wedding supper of the Lamb [Rev 19].
- [6:25a] Reversal: Woe to those who are gluttons & over-consuming, because they will end up hungry.
  - [Phil 3:19] For some, their stomach is god / an idol.
  - You can either worship God with your food, or worship food.
  - Not just food; this could extend to various other comforts/pleasures that become lord over your life.

### Kingdom reversal of power

- [6:21b] Blessed are those who weep because they are hurt & powerless.

- a. Those who weep because they are oppressed, suffering, mistreated, abused.
  - b. King Jesus will give you joy that lasts, not contingent on circumstances.
2. [6:25b] Reversal: Woe to those who laugh because their lives are good (they have power), while others' are not.
- a. Those who laugh at others' expense/misfortune, who mock & care little for others.
  - b. Their eyes are only on their own happiness.
  - c. Woe to you because you will be judged rightly & justly.

### **Kingdom reversal of fame**

1. [6:22-23] Blessed are those who are rejected for Jesus' sake, for living out counter-cultural grace/lifestyle.
- a. *Not* those who are rejected because they're angry, hateful, overly-aggressive as a Christian [cf. 1 Pet 3:15].
  - b. If rejected for Jesus, you don't have to seek acceptance & significance; God has already given that to you.
2. [6:26] Reversal: Woe to those who live for your own name & reputation (idolatry of self).
- a. Attention-seeking, people-pleasing, self-worth based on performance & others' opinions
  - b. Identity based on adoration / acceptance.
  - c. [Prov 29:25] Fear of man / approval is a trap.
  - d. Preferring approval of people over honoring Jesus, just like all the false prophets.
3. Application: Your identity is rooted in God's affection, not your performance.

### **Kingdom ethic: Love [Luke 6:27-36]**

1. Primary value of the Kingdom: Love; for God & neighbor [cf Matt 22:34-40].
- a. Take everything you hold dear (wealth, comfort, power, fame), and let it go as Jesus did.
2. [6:27] Ultimate expression of the Kingdom ethic is love for enemies.
- a. Application: Who is your enemy today? Who has done the most harm, damage, grief, stress? Love them.
  - b. Beyond just an internal attitude of love, do good to them.
  - c. [28-30] Instead of retaliating, bless them.
    - i. [28] Pray for them: For your heart to be right, for their heart to repent & join the Kingdom.
    - ii. [29] Don't retaliate: Don't return evil for evil; don't keep a record of wrongs [1 Cor 13:5].
    - iii. [30] Give freely/generously, like Jesus [cf. John 10:18]. No one can take away what you willingly give.
3. [6:31] Big Idea: Treat others the way you would want to be treated.
- a. We tend to feel that we owe others nothing; everyone owes us something
  - b. Kingdom ethic: Love God & neighbor, go outwards instead of inwards.
4. Application: The most painful parts of life are amazing opportunities to live out the Kingdom ethic.
- a. An opportunity to experience what Jesus did, become a little more like Him, show others who He is.
  - b. If you believe Jesus' blessing, you'll be able to rejoice in all circumstances, & look for opportunities to practice the Kingdom ethic.

### **Conclusion**

1. Jesus won't make you rich, comfortable, powerful or famous; He is not a means to an end.
- a. But He is good & faithful.
  - b. Struggle is not your identity; remember your true identity is in Christ.
    - i. When we understand that, we can even bless those who abuse us.
    - ii. When we don't, we'll become bitter, selfish, self-righteous & judgmental, responding in a worldly way.
2. If your identity is wrapped up in wealth, comforts, power, fame, woe to you.
- a. If you are poor, hungry, wounded, rejected because of Christ, blessed are you.
  - b. Jesus died for our sins, rose, & went to the Kingdom to prepare a place for us, so we will be blessed.
3. Application: Are you happy or blessed? What kingdom defines you? Who are you?