

LUKE 6:20-36

REVIEW...

- **THE GOSPEL OF LUKE...**
 - The focus of Luke is on the humanity of Jesus – showing Him as the perfect flawless man...
 - Key Verse - **Luke 19:10** - “**The Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost.**”
- **LUKE 1:5 - 3:28 - THE BIRTH AND EARLY YEARS OF JESUS / JOHN THE BAPTIST ~ BAPTISM OF JESUS...**
- **LUKE 4:1-44 - TEMPTATION OF JESUS / JESUS RETURNS TO NAZARETH - CAPERNAUM...**
- **LUKE 5:1-39 - CHALLENGE OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS...**
- **LUKE 6:1-19 - THE SABBATH DAY...**
 - Breaking the Sabbath - the disciples were hungry and grabbed some grain on the Sabbath...
 - They broke ‘tradition’ - Jesus told the leaders He was ‘the Lord of the Sabbath’...
 - On another Sabbath - Jesus healed a man with a withered hand...
 - Showing them love and compassions were more important than their rules!
 - Choosing the 12 Apostles...
 - Jesus spent all night in prayer - came down and choose the 12...
 - Called them Apostles - because they were to be sent out to share the Good News!

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT...

- **THE BEATITUDES...**
 - Jesus lifted up his eyes toward His disciples...
 - The Sermon on the Mount is the longest teaching by Jesus recorded in the Bible...
 - It was given on the hillside just north of the city of Capernaum (*on the mount*)...
 - Luke records the teaching in **Luke 6** - Matthew in 3 chapters - **Matthew 5-7**...
 - Though the crowds gathered – the Sermon on the Mount is directed to Jesus’ disciples...
 - **This is not written to just anyone - it is addressed to those who want to follow Jesus...**
 - The Beatitudes – ‘Oh how happy’...
 - Luke gives 4 ‘beatitudes’ - descriptions of the blessed ‘happy’ man / and 4 ‘woes’...
 - **Matthew 5:1-12** - records 8 beatitudes / but none of the woes...
 - Everyone wants to be happy – Jesus here describes to us the Happy life...
 - **The ‘blessed man’ - is the one who knows he is for sure going to heaven...**
 - **The beatitudes don’t tell us how to be blessed - only what the blessed life looks like...**
 - **The key to ‘how’ to have a blessed life Jesus gives towards the end of the teaching...**
- **THE 4 BEATITUDES... VS. 20-23**
 - 1st - Blessed are the Poor (*in Spirit*) - for yours is the Kingdom of God...
 - Perhaps speaking of physical poverty - no food / no money...
 - **It can be hard for us to imagine poverty being a blessing...**
 - **But when we have nothing - we are constantly looking to the Lord to provide!**
 - **You are not limited to they money in your pocket - or perhaps in the bank...**
 - **Instead you have access to all the wealth of your Father in Heaven - His Kingdom!**
 - More likely speaking of spiritual poverty...
 - **We are happy when we realize that we are poor in Spirit - no good sinners...**

- The only thing that will keep us from the Kingdom of Heaven is 'our righteousness'...
- It is when we realize how poor we are - we long for and cling to Jesus righteousness!

o 2nd - Blessed are you who hunger - for you will be filled... vs. 20

- If we do not eat for a day - we get REALLY hungry - we NEED to eat...
- We know what it means to be hungry - but do we have that need for God...
- Do we seek after the righteousness of God with the same passion as food...
- When we hunger and thirst after God's righteousness - He will fill us!
- **John 6:32** - "My Father gives you the true bread from heaven."

o 3rd - Blessed are you who cry - for you will laugh...

- When we are saddened - weep - over the lost state of the world around us...
- **Luke 19:41** - "Now as [Jesus] drew near, He saw the city and wept over it."
- We will be driven by our burden for lost family / friends / loved ones - to share Jesus...
- And when they also come to know Jesus as their savior - there will be laughter!

o 4th - Blessed are you when men hate you - for Jesus' sake... vs. 22

- When they exclude you - when they make your name and mocking word...
- A disciple isn't greater than the teacher / the servant than the master - **Matthew 10:24**
 - Since the world hates Jesus - how much more those who follow Jesus...
 - **John 15:18** - "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you."
 - The world hates Jesus because he convicts the world of sin and righteousness...
 - If it weren't for Jesus men could do whatever they wanted without consequence...
 - **John 3:19-20** - "This is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil..."
 - Like a light shining in the darkness - Jesus reveals the sin of the world...
 - Because men LOVE sin they hate the light that reveals their sinfulness...
 - When people make fun of you - attack you with cutting words - because of Jesus...
 - Because you don't do the things the world does - convicting the world of their sin...
 - We have Jesus in us - so as they hate the light - Jesus - they also hate us...
- Rejoice because great is your reward in Heaven... vs. 23
 - This is exactly how they treated the great men/prophets of the Bible...
 - Being hated - mistreated - mocked for following Jesus is nothing new...
 - **Acts 7:52** - "Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One."
 - It can be tough listening to the comments - the cutting words people say...
 - As we desire to live and stand for Jesus - and feel the brunt of the world's hate...
 - But no trial - no comment - nothing here can compare with what's to come...
 - * **II Corinthians 4:17-18** - "Our present troubles are quite small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us an immeasurably great glory that will last forever!"
 - How many of us have worked hard - 'suffered' - only to get paid a small wage...
 - And the money we did receive did not even last very long - we had to work again...
 - How much better to 'suffer' for a little while - but get an eternal / everlasting reward!
 - 20, 30, even 40 years of trials - are nothing compared to an eternity in Heaven!
 - **I Corinthians 2:9** - "No eye has seen, no ear has heard... what God has prepared..."

● THE CONTRAST OF THE BEATITUDES - THE 4 WOES... vs. 24-26

- o 1st - Woe to you who are rich - for you have received your reward... vs. 2
 - How sad to live for riches here on earth - that only last for a few short years...
 - An in turn miss out on the FAR greater riches that await the child of God...
 - There are only so many hours in a day - we have to choose where we invest our time...
 - Wherever we put the majority of our treasures – we will also find our heart...
 - **Matthew 6:21** - “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
 - Where do we spend the majority of our money, time, thoughts, and efforts...
 - Are we focused on the things of the Lord – or caught up in the things of this world...
- o 2nd - Woe to you who are full - for you will be hungry... vs. 25
 - Too often in life we strive just to put food in our stomach - only to be hungry again...
 - We may be able to fill our mouth - but the spirit inside of us is empty!
 - Life is more than just rice - if we are living for food - we are missing out on life...
 - * **John 6:27** - “You should not be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life...”
 - It is when we learn to seek after Jesus - the bread of life - we are truly full!
- o 3rd - Woe to you who laugh now - for you will mourn and weep...
 - Those who are rich and full - seem to laugh and have the best time - now...
 - * **Luke 16:25** - “Son, remember in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.”
 - Which would you rather have - all the riches and comforts of the world for a few years...
 - Only to end up in the eternal torment of the fires of hell...
 - Or share in the riches of heaven - co-heir with Christ - forever in heaven...
- o 4th - Woe to you when men speak well of you - they also spoke well of false prophets... v. 26
 - If those who don't know Jesus love you - it is often a good sign you are not serving God...
 - **James 4:4** - “Don't you realize friendship with this world makes you an enemy of God?”
 - Many in Jesus' day recognized Him as the Messiah - but they would not confess Him...
 - **John 12:43** - “For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”
 - There is always a temptation to want to blend into the crowd – to be accepted
 - But if we are not willing to take a stand for Jesus - if we deny Him - **Matthew 10:33**...
 - He will not stand for us before the judgment seat of God - He will deny us...
 - If we want to be Jesus' disciple we must Love Him more than the praises of men!
- **HOW TO BE BLESSED - THE LAW... MATTHEW 5:17-20**
 - o Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets...
 - Jesus did not come to take away the Law of Moses (*God's Righteous standard*)...
 - The 613 do's & don'ts of the Law – the most famous of which are the 10 commandments
 - Not one jot or tittle will pass away (*smallest grammar marks in the Hebrew language*)
 - Jesus here gives us insight on how to live the blessed life - the key is the Law...
 - o Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees...
 - This is the key verse to the whole Sermon on the Mount...
 - If the key to the blessed life is the Law – then what is the standard the Law gives...
 - You must be more righteous than the most 'holy' and religious leaders of Israel...
 - This statement would have shaken the very faith of the disciple to their foundation...
 - The scribes and Pharisees were the MOST righteous men of their day!

- To say that they were not good enough - meant that no one was...
- It would be like saying the nicest person you know - still not going 'Good' enough...
- If they are not good enough – who then can be 'Good' enough to inherit eternal life...

● THE IMPOSSIBLE STANDARD... vs. 27-35

- o Having stated the impossible – your righteousness needs to exceed the religious leaders...
- o Jesus goes on to elaborate and give 3 examples of the righteous 'standard' of the law...
- o 1st - Turn the other cheek... vs. 29
 - The Old Testament version of justice was an eye for eye - **Deuteronomy 19:21**...
 - The Law was not meant to be vindictive – it was meant to be limiting...
 - Meaning you weren't allowed to do more to someone in revenge than they had done...
 - We want revenge - if you take my eye – I want to take both of yours, and ears, nose...
 - If you start the fight - I am MORE than willing to be the one to finish it...
 - If you do good to those who do good to you - even sinners do that... vs. 31
 - Those who don't know Jesus - they are nice to those who are nice to them...
 - Those who harm them - they go after to exact revenge - that is the world's way...
 - Where the Law says – if someone hits us – we can only hit them back (*equal*)
 - Jesus says turn the other cheek - let your enemy hit you a 2nd time!
 - Do GOOD to those who do BAD to you - that the world NEVER would never do!
- o 2nd - If someone asks for your shirt - give them your coat - give money to anyone who asks...
 - The Old Testament Law commanded us not to steal from others - **Exodus 20:15**...
 - The idea was to establish the right of property - what's mine is mine / yours is yours...
 - If I owned a shirt - you could not take it / if I lent you money - you had to return it...
 - If you only give to those who give back - even sinners do that...
 - Those who don't know Jesus - they will loan money (*with interest*) to anyone...
 - You can borrow things - but they want them back - that is the world's way...
 - Where the Law says - do not take what does not belong to you...
 - Jesus says give what is your away - without any hope of getting it back!
 - Give your things - to ANYONE who asks - that the world NEVER would never do!
- o 3rd - Love your neighbor...
 - The law only required that you love your neighbor - **Leviticus 19:18**...
 - We call it the 'Golden Rule' - do to other people - what you want them to do to you...
 - The same way we want others to treat us - is how we should treat them!
 - But it was limited to our neighbor - we would say family / friends...
 - If you love those who also love you - even sinners do that...
 - Those who don't know Jesus - will still love those who love them back...
 - Even the worst criminal takes care of his kids - his family...
 - Where the Law says - you are only required to love your neighbor...
 - Love says - do good to those who hate you - curse you - spitefully use you!
 - Love those who HATE you - HURT you - that the world NEVER would never do!

● CONCLUSION... vs. 35-36

- o Therefore - Love your enemies / do good / and give...
 - God - our example of Love - is kind to the unthankful and evil...

- * **Romans 5:7-8** – “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- While we were still sinners - unthankful - evil - God showed His love for us...
- So when we do the same - we show we are also sons of the most high...
- o Be just like your Father in Heaven...
 - Our standard of being good...
 - When someone says they are a good person they are setting a standard...
 - Whom are they good compared to - by what standard are they good...
 - So often we have set the standard ourselves - I am better than the person next to me...
 - The question that must be asked though is what is God’s Standard of righteousness...
 - Be merciful - just as your Father in heaven is merciful...
 - God standard of righteousness - is Himself - **Leviticus 19:2**...
 - Never once having sinned in action or thought - **James 2:10**...
 - Suddenly we no longer look like such good people....
 - It’s been asked why would a God of love send good people to hell - He does not...
 - Amazingly He sends sinners to heaven! The qualification – faith in His perfect Son!
 - The answer to how to live the blessed life...
 - * **Romans 3:20-24** – “Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin...”
 - The answer is Jesus! We cannot be Righteous on our own!
 - It is only through Faith in Jesus can we have the Blessed life!