



“Woe to the Blessed” – Luke 6:20-26

1. In Luke 6: 23 & 26, Jesus referenced different kinds of prophets in the Old Testament. The false prophets told the kings what they wanted to hear, but the prophets who spoke the truth were persecuted.

Name some instances where it may seem more convenient to tell someone what they would like to hear instead of the truth:

Jesus preached that there would be consolation for those who experienced persecution while trying to do what is right for Christ’s sake. What do you think is the consolation when we are mistreated on the account of Christ?

How would you communicate this to someone who experienced evil and mistreatment for doing something good?

Pray: Heavenly Father, help us to speak truthfully and to act justly. Help us to encourage one another to do what is right for Jesus’ sake and to look for our reward in heaven instead of comfort from the world. Amen.

2. In ancient times, earthly comfort was a sign of God’s favor. Alternatively, poverty and tragedy were thought to be the result of sin or one’s mistakes. Jesus’ teachings about the afflicted and the well-fed in Luke 6:20-26 were contrary to the perceptions of his day.

Name 2 or 3 people that have experienced notable success from entertainment, politics, or the business world. Next to their name describe some traits that they are admired for.

Think of some people who do not possess those traits, describe the quality of their lives and how successful they are considered by our culture.

Compare the traits of the first list with the quality of life of those in the second list. Write a proverb in the style of Luke 6:20-26 using one of the traits from the 1st list for the blessing, and one of the examples from the 2nd list for the woes. (Example: Blessed are those who..., Woe to those who...)

Rewrite your proverb by switching the words "Blessed" and "Woe." Your new proverb is similar to Jesus' counter-cultural words in our time. How does this make you feel?

Pray: Dear Lord, you proclaim that our ways are not your ways and that our values are not your values. Bring us into alignment with your values and help us to follow your ways in how we treat others. Amen.

3. The sermon referenced 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, where Paul lists types of people who will not inherit the Kingdom of God. An honest reading of this list shows us that we are sinful and could easily have "woe" pronounced on us if it wasn't for our standing in Jesus.

Go to Romans 1:28-31 and view another list of behaviors that are characteristic of those who are under God's judgment. From the list in Romans 1:28-31, write in the space below the behaviors that characterized you at some point in your life.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:11 and then draw a cross through each word above. Next to each crossed out behavior write, "forgiven."

Pray: Heavenly Father, we confess that we sin against you, and we rely upon the grace and forgiveness of Jesus Christ in our lives. Thank you for cleansing us through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Help us to share the blessing that comes from trusting in Jesus as our consolation. Amen.