

## Luke 6:17-36

4-9-06

*“Christian Living is not always Comfortable Living!”*

### 1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. The *Pineapple Upside Down Cake*: I wouldn't have thought of it, but boy is it tasty! (who 1<sup>st</sup> thought to flip it upside-down?)
  - 1.1.1. Jesus describes His kingdom upside down from all other kingdoms.
    - 1.1.1.1. The beatitudes & woes are **opposite**.
    - 1.1.1.2. It is **the Great Reversal!**
- 1.2. Some have called this “*The Constitution of His Kingdom*” others “*a Portrait of Jesus*”.
  - 1.2.1. It is certain that this Sermon has definite application for us today!
  - 1.2.2. These truths are all repeated in the NT epistles for the church today
  - 1.2.3. See Jesus' own ending, in whom He says it's for! **Mt.7:24-27**.
    - 1.2.3.1. Not just those that **heard** His words, but those **that'll hear** His sayings! (**vs.24**)
  - 1.2.4. If it's only for the “*Millennium*” then what about **Lk.6:22?**
- 1.3. Everyone of us is pursuing after **Happiness!**
  - 1.3.1. Even **Our Constitution** guarantees *the Pursuit of Happiness!*
  - 1.3.2. Jesus tells us how to find Happiness! – “*Happy/blessed are you...*”
  - 1.3.3. **Jesus' Constitution** points out the Pathway to Happiness, as He describes the “*attitudes*” which lead to happiness!
- 1.4. **Outline:** [1] **The Plain Sermon** [2] **The Main Sermon** [3] **Summed up Sermon.**

### 2. **THE “PLAIN” SERMON! (17-26)**

- 2.1. Jesus now descends from the mount of Election (where He picked apostles).
  - 2.1.1. He had a marvelous ministry of **healing**. Physical & spiritual.
- 2.2. This is different from Matthews *Sermon on the Mount*. This is Luke's *Sermon on the Plain!*
  - 2.2.1. **The differences include:** **location & occasion** (mount vs. level place); **content** (both have diff content the other doesn't have); & **listeners** (disciples vs. disciples + many others).
- 2.3. **BEATITUDES!** (17-23)
- 2.4. **So, happy are:** the **poor**, the **hungry**, those who **weep**, & when you're **hated/excluded/reviled/& your name is smeared**. (**Wow really?**)

- 2.5. (20) **Blessed are you who...** are Self-assertive! Aggressive! Confident! Esteem yourself! – **NOPE!** *Blessed are you poor!*
- 2.5.1. “Men & women who are supremely conscious of their own **spiritual poverty**; of their own **unworthiness**; who are mastered by a **great humility!**” (G. Campbell Morgan)
- 2.5.2. *Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones* said, “This one is first because it is obviously **the key** to all that follows!”
- 2.5.3. This one speaks of **emptying**, while the rest are a manifestation of **a fullness**.
- 2.5.3.1. We can't be **filled** unless we're **emptied!**
- 2.6. (21) **Hunger** – Matthew gives the fuller account...*Hunger & thirst for righteousness!*
- 2.6.1. In their heart & soul there burns a consuming passion for **righteousness!** (Morgan)
- 2.7. **Weep now**(unique to Luke) - “If you want to know someone’s **character**, find out what makes him **laugh** & what makes him **weep!**”
- 2.7.1. What we **laugh at** & what we **weep over** indicates our values of life & values are a part of maturity.
- 2.7.2. Ninevah/8th cent. BC - **wept** & they were comforted [Jonah 3:8,9]
- 2.7.2.1. The miracle of the big guppy steals the stage, but the greater miracle was the largest revival of all time, “*All of Ninevah!*”
- 2.8. (22,23) **Exclude** = to mark off from by boundary, to excommunicate from the congregation as well as from social interaction. (LKGNT)
- 2.9. **Q: Are American Christians even persecuted? No, & Yes!**
- 2.9.1. **No!** - There is no comparison to the Biblical persecution & the earlier churches experience! {some call it “*Hang Nail*” pers.}
- 2.9.1.1. We live in the midst of an easy going, **popular** kind of religion, that is **acceptable** to the world, maybe because it involves **no Conviction & no Cross!**
- 2.9.2. **Yes!** - American Christians **are** persecuted daily!
- 2.9.2.1. **Christianity is attacked everywhere!** {In **politics**; often w/**church building projects**(not ours); **public Preaching & outreach**; in our **Schools**(discrimination) - in **every subject**, w/evolution, w/morals(or the lack of them), their hero’s(sport figures, & rock stars); the attack on the family structure}
- 2.9.2.2. Spurg, “Persecution of the **tongue** is more common, but not less cruel than that of the **hand!**”
- 2.10. **Ok how do we gain happiness from this???**
- 2.10.1. **#1** - Realize that is a **privilege** to be persecuted for Jesus sake.
- 2.10.2. **#2** - Realize this is **evidence** that we’re **living like Him.**

- 2.10.3. **#3** - Realize that the **fellowship** of his sufferings(Phil.3:10) is the closest fellowship possible w/God!
  - 2.10.3.1. When we are **in the furnace**, the Son of God is **there w/us!**
- 2.10.4. **#4** - Realize when the stones are flying we have **opportunity to be our best witness!** (Stephen w/Saul - Look at the results!!!)
- 2.10.5. **#5** - Realize persecution gives me the **opportunity to grow!**
  - 2.10.5.1. "It has a way of driving us to God!"
- 2.11. This **joy** isn't worked up, it is the gift of the H.S.
- 2.12. **Note:** contrast between the **prophets**(23) & the **false prophets**(26).
  - 2.12.1. To the **persecuted** "*blessed*" to the **patronized** "*woe*"!
- 2.13. **WOES!** (24-26)
- 2.14. **Woe on the counterparts of the happy:** the **rich**, the **well-fed**, the **merry**, & the **popular**.
  - 2.14.1. Here, He seems to be addressing others in the crowd.
- 2.15. (24-6) **Received** = (used in a commercial sense) to acknowledge the receipt of full payment.
  - 2.15.1. **Beyond the present possession of riches, these people have nothing to hope for.** (LKGNT)

### 3. **THE "MAIN" SERMON! (i.e. Love) (27-36)**

- 3.1. **Love** is the heart of Jesus' teachings, & these teachings are crucial to understanding what He meant.<sup>1</sup>
  - 3.1.1. He makes it clear you can't say, "*but I don't feel like loving my enemy nor doing him/her good.*"
    - 3.1.1.1. Because He defines love as **action**, not **emotion!**
- 3.2. **RULES FOR KINGDOM LIFE!** (27-36)
- 3.3. Jesus emphasized the **true spiritual values of life** in contrast to the **false values of the Pharisees**.
  - 3.3.1. "**Comfortable living is not always Christian living.**" (www)
  - 3.3.2. Here is the law of love operating against hatred!
    - 3.3.2.1. So, here's how to behave yourself when you are hated.
- 3.4. (27,28) Yes, God's people have their **enemies**, even as Jesus did; & we must be **Christlike** in how we treat them.<sup>2</sup>
  - 3.4.1. We are not to merely **cease to hate**, then live in a **cold neutrality**; **But we are to love** where hatred seemed inevitable!

<sup>1</sup> Shepherd's Notes; pg.25

<sup>2</sup> Warren Wiersbe; With the Word; pg.673

- 3.4.2. We must be giving & forgiving; & we must pray for them, **not that** God would **destroy them**, **but that** He would **change them!**
- 3.4.3. “The best way to **conquer** an enemy is to make him a **friend!!!**”
- 3.5. Jesus defines our enemies as: those who “*curse us, hate us, & exploit us selfishly!*”
- 3.5.1. Since **Christian Love** is an “**act of the will**” & not simply “**an emotion**”, he has the rt. to command us to **Love our enemies!**
- 3.6. When we **pray for our enemies** we find it easier to **love** them!
- 3.6.1. It takes the “**Poison**” out of our Attitudes!
- 3.7. The world’s policy is “**give nothing for nothing**”, or the Latin “**quid pro quo**” (something for something). [Hand rubs “1 for 1?”]
- 3.8. (29-30) Returning *good for good*, or *evil for evil*, is the **ordinary rule** of man.
- 3.8.1. **Beneath this** is returning *evil for good*...which is **devilish!**
- 3.8.2. **Above it** there is the returning *good for evil*...which is **Divine!**<sup>3</sup>
- 3.9. This “*Lex Talionis*”(law of retaliation) is from Ex.21:23-25 “**But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.**” (context, woman w/child hurt while men were fighting)
- 3.9.1. This law kept people from taking the law into their own hands.
- 3.9.2. **Jesus replaces this law w/an Attitude!** - Be willing to suffer loss yourself rather than cause another to suffer!
- 3.10. **Balance** is “when” to “*give a kiss for a punch*”—Jesus himself didn’t offer to be hit a 2<sup>nd</sup> time in **Jn.18:22,23** but firmly rebuked the one who struck Him.
- 3.10.1. “**And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, “Do You answer the high priest like that?” Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?”**”

#### **4. SUMMED UP SERMON(i.e. Golden Rule)! (31)**

- 4.1. (31) **The Golden Rule:**
- 4.1.1. This was often quoted in the **negative!**
- 4.1.1.1. Tobit 4:14 “**Do to no one what you yourself disgrace!**”
- 4.1.2. It was also used by: *Hillel, Philo, Socrates, & Confucius.*
- 4.1.2.1. It’s also found in many religions.

<sup>3</sup> Pulpit Commentary; Luke; pg.147.

- 4.1.3. **Jesus puts it in the positive form!**
  - 4.1.3.1. Wiersbe said, “We should no more build our theology on the golden rule, than we should build our astronomy on Twinkle, Twinkle, little Star!”
- 4.1.4. This great truth is simply a **principle** that ought to govern our attitudes towards others!
  - 4.1.4.1. The **Golden Rule** is a **pocket knife** always ready to be used, even in sudden emergencies when there is not time to ask advice from a friend, or to consult a book!
- 4.1.5. **Note:** It is also Jesus saying to His true followers, “**Take the initiative!**”
  - 4.1.5.1. Husbands, wives, whoever is the Christian take the initiative!
  - 4.1.5.2. “Do the good for them that you want done for you!”
- 4.1.6. You can only obey this if you are **love-mastered!**
- 4.2. (32-34) Now He gives illustration of that rule!
- 4.3. “*Even a dog will salute a dog!*” (Spurg)
- 4.4. What **credit** is that to you?(3 x’s) (*charis* = thanks, favor, grace)
- 4.5. (35,36) Stop not at the **easier love**, but go on to the **harder**; & do this **because God does it** even to the **unthankful & evil!**
  - 4.5.1. Bonhoeffer asks, “**Who** needs Love more than the one who is consumed w/hatred for us. - **Who** in other words deserves our Love more than our enemy? - **Where** is Love more glorified than where she dwells in the midst of her enemies!”
  - 4.5.2. But, to Love our Enemy is not **Natural!** [**Exactly! It’s Supernatural!**]
- 4.6. **Jesus the perfect example** – He **loved** His enemies(Judas/friend); He **did good** to them that hated Him; He **blessed** them that cursed Him(thief); He **prayed for** them that spitefully used Him(Father forgive them...); He **reviled not** when they gambled for His garment they stole from Him.
- 4.7. He is kind to the **unthankful evil** – This is called “**common grace w/o common gratitude!**”