

WEEK 9:

JESUS' UPSIDE-DOWN COMMUNITY: VALUES

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 6:17-26

RELATED SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 5:1-12, Isaiah 25:1-8, James 5:1-6

“Chronological snobbery,’ [is] the uncritical acceptance of the intellectual climate common to our own age... Our own age is also ‘a period,’ and certainly has, like all periods, its own characteristic illusions. They are likeliest to lurk in those widespread assumptions which are so ingrained in the age that no one dares to attack or feels it necessary to defend them.”

– C.S. Lewis, *Surprised By Joy*

PERSONAL STUDY:

Read Luke 6:20-26. Is it hard to understand why Jesus said that those who are poor, hungry, sad and hated are those who are truly blessed? Why does Jesus say woe to the rich, the full, those who laugh, and those who are well-respected? How do His teachings conflict with our cultural values?

Read Matthew 5:1-12. What differences do you notice between these two accounts of Jesus’ teaching? How do the two passages help bring a fuller picture and shine more light on each other?

Read Luke 6:20+24 and 1 Timothy 6:6-10. What does Jesus mean when He says, “blessed are the poor”? What is the difference between loving money and having money? Why is the love of money such a temptation?

Read Luke 6:21+25, Matthew 6:33 and Philippians 3:17-21. Where in life are you driven by your appetites and cravings (hunger)? In Philippians 3, how does Paul describe the focus of someone whose “god is their belly”?

Read Luke 6:22-23+26 and John 12:42-43. How does the desire for people’s approval hinder your love of Jesus? Have you ever been mocked or even hated for identifying your life with Jesus?

SERMON NOTES:



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

Have you ever thought or heard anyone say that the Bible is irrelevant and outdated? What do you think?



Read Luke 6:20-26. What are the four issues that Jesus teaches on in this passage? How does Jesus' teaching oppose our culture's deeply held values?

By cultural standards, are you poor or rich? Are you hungry or full? Are you one of those who weep or those who laugh? Are you hated or do people speak well of you? Do your love and devotion to Jesus factor into these issues? How so?

Read Luke 6:20+24 and 1 Timothy 6:6-10. Where as a LifeGroup are we most tempted by the love of money? What steps of repentance do we need to take?



Read Luke 6:21+25 and Philippians 3:17-21. What appetites and cravings regularly distract us from Jesus? What steps of repentance do we need to take?

Where are we tempted to act happy and like everything in life is fine? What steps of repentance do we need to take?



Read Luke 6:22-23+26 and John 12:42-43. Where do we struggle the most with fear of man? What steps of repentance do we need to take?