



Small Group Bible Study—St. Paul's: Onalaska

WK 5: Jesus Gives Divine Blessedness

Based on sermon from Feb 17th, 2019

Luke 6:17-26

WARM UP

1. If you could name one thing that you could change in your life, what would it be? Do you think that would make you happier?

Commented [OD1]: I would love it if my house was paid off. Would it make me happier? I'd like to think that it would remove a big worry in my life (money) but some other worry would replace it soon enough. It will get everyone talking about the our search for happiness and God leading us to true happiness. At times we are looking in the wrong place. Hopefully by the end of this bible study people will see that they have everything they need in Christ.

INTO THE TEXT

1. What did people think would make them happy in the first few verses of our lesson? So why did Jesus bother helping them?

Commented [OD2]: Many people came to hear Jesus, to be healed of diseases, casting demons out. As these people come to be healed Jesus reminds people what true happiness is. A person who has a handicap thinks that they would be happier if they didn't have the handicap. Jesus helps us to see that isn't true. True happiness, it seems, can actually be found through that handicap.

2. Look at Jesus' examples of blessings and woes. How does he redefine what true blessings are in each case? How do we sometimes run after the wrong thing in search of happiness?

Commented [OD3]: The blessing of poverty is being in need and looking to the Lord for help. Be careful that you don't give the impression that rich people are going to hell. That's not what Jesus is saying. But he is saying that rich people can have the impression that they need nothing from anyone. Jesus wants us all to see that we are spiritually poor beggars with nothing to offer God.

- a. Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God (vs. 20); Woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. (vs. 24)

Commented [OD4]: This one is very similar to the last in that it involves the idea of poverty. So don't spend much time on it. I have to admit I've never been truly hungry, meaning, that I have never had to wonder where my next meal was going to come from. That's a blessing. At the same time, Jesus shows the blessing of being hungry. Those people appreciate food more. When people realize their desperate spiritual state, they are more appreciative of their Savior. Spiritual apathy is a major threat to a person's faith and it's everywhere.

- b. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied (vs. 21); Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. (vs. 25)

- c. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh (vs. 21); Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep (vs. 25)

Commented [OD5]: When Robin Williams died people wondered how someone who could make so many laugh, could himself be so depressed to the point where he would commit suicide. How does this verse bring to light the smiles we show on the outside, while on the inside someone might be really hurting inside?

- d. Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man (vs. 22); Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets. (vs. 26)

Commented [OD6]: This one focuses on persecution. Oddly enough the Christian church has always moved forward in the face of persecution, in fact it has thrived. Then you see us in America where we enjoy the freedom of religion, our Christian churches are falling apart everywhere. It may not feel good, but God may decide that what our churches need in America is persecution.

DIGGING DEEPER

3. Read 1 Peter 4:12-14. The definition of being blessed here is similar to what Jesus says in Luke 6.

a. How do we train our body and emotions to “rejoice” in the face of suffering?

Commented [OD7]: It’s only found in the gospel – Word and sacraments. We need to focus on the promises of God rather than on our emotions. Remember Jesus rose from the dead. We have the victory. The church is not dying. Our physical bodies may be dying but we aren’t. etc.

b. What are some ways that you or other people you know struggle with this?

Commented [OD8]: We compare ourselves to others. We see people’s “better” lives on facebook or in conversations and think that if only this part of our life would change we would be happier.

NOW WHAT?

4. What can you say to comfort someone who is suffering in any of the ways discussed earlier?

Commented [OD9]: Point them to the gospel promises.

5. What scripture verses would you use for others (or yourself) when going through difficult times? Why are those useful?

a. Romans 8:28

b. Isaiah 41:10

Commented [OD10]: Great for someone who endured a tragedy and needs help.

c. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Commented [OD11]: Great for someone who is struggling with guilt

d. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Commented [OD12]: Great for someone who is dying

e. Others?