

- I. My Notes ... WWC message 6/13
- II. Series: Koinonia – The Joy of Living in Unity with Christ
 - Title: Kingdom Formation part 1
 - Text: Philippians 2:12-13; Luke 6:20-26
 - Quote: The Kingdom of God is not a matter of getting individuals to heaven, but of transforming the life on earth into the harmony of heaven. Walter Rauschenbusch (Theologian, Pastor)
- III. Introduction
 - As we grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, something begins to shift inside us. Our perspective changes. Our understanding deepens. We start to see life differently — not because we're trying to be deep or spiritual, but because the Spirit is forming something new within us. Paul describes this beautifully when he says, *"16 From now on, then, we do not know anyone from a worldly perspective. Even if we have known Christ from a worldly perspective, yet now we no longer know him in this way. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!"* **(2Corinthians 5:16-17 CSB)**. That new life doesn't just change our destination — it changes our vision.
 - This is important because it changes the way we view life. I don't mean this as a general or philosophical statement. It is because we are growing. And this growth brings change (I would call it understanding). The old way that we have been defined is "gone" — it has no hold on us. That doesn't mean we don't have memories or issues that need to be faced and dealt with. It means that the old man no longer shapes our present or our future. Too often, we view the statements Paul makes, the things Jesus has said, as future work. At the moment you accepted Jesus as Lord, as the moment you realized you needed help, and confessed this need, your eternity changed. Eternity for all believers is not some far off destination. It is today — from this moment forward. If you are still here, on Earth, then the Lord has something for you to do for His Kingdom. Our journey, our duty, is about pointing others to Jesus. First, this is God honoring. Next, this reveals much needed grace and compassion while changing the eternal destination for some.
 - When you step into the Kingdom of God, you step into a new way of seeing reality. A Kingdom mindset. A Heaven-shaped lens. And nowhere is that clearer than in the words of Jesus in Luke 6.
Jesus looks at His disciples — ordinary, struggling, imperfect people — and He begins to describe what life in His Kingdom actually looks like. But He doesn't start where we expect. He doesn't say, "Blessed are the strong... the successful... the admired." Instead, He says:
 - Blessed are the poor.

- Blessed are the hungry.
 - Blessed are the weeping.
 - Blessed are the hated.
- And then He flips the script even further:
 - Woe to the rich.
 - Woe to the full.
 - Woe to the laughing.
 - Woe to the well-spoken-of.
- It's jarring. It's unsettling. It's upside-down.
But that's the point.
Jesus is revealing that the Kingdom of God does not operate by the values of this world. The world calls one thing blessed - Jesus calls another. The world celebrates strength, comfort, applause, and abundance. Jesus celebrates dependence, surrender, humility, and hunger for God.
- And if we're honest, this doesn't come naturally to us. We don't instinctively call hunger blessed. We don't naturally call tears blessed. We don't easily call rejection blessed. Which means that if we are going to live as Kingdom people, something deeper must happen in us. Something must be formed.
Because the Kingdom is not just a place we go — it is a life we grow into.
- And that brings us to the heart of this series: Kingdom Formation. If Luke 6 shows us what the Kingdom looks like, then Philippians 2:12–13 shows us how that Kingdom life is formed within us. Jesus gives us the vision; Paul gives us the process. Jesus reveals the values; Paul reveals the transformation.
- The Kingdom Jesus describes in Luke 6 is not something we can produce on our own. It must be worked into us — shaped in us — by the God who “works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.”
- So today, we begin with the vision. In the weeks ahead, we'll explore the formation. But it all starts here: seeing life through Heaven's eyes.

IV. Note

- When Jesus gives us the blessings and woes in Luke 6, He isn't simply describing distinct groups of people — He's revealing a different kind of life. A Kingdom life. A life that sees differently, values differently, and lives differently. But if we're honest, the life Jesus describes doesn't come naturally to us. We don't drift into Kingdom values. We don't stumble into Kingdom vision. Something deeper must be formed in us. And this is where the Apostle Paul steps in. If Luke 6 shows us what the Kingdom looks like, Philippians 2 shows us how the Kingdom is formed within us. Jesus gives us the vision; Paul gives us the process. Jesus reveals the values; Paul reveals the transformation. So today we begin with the vision — the upside-down, right-side-up Kingdom Jesus announces — and in the weeks ahead, we'll explore how God forms that Kingdom life in us.

V. Text

- **Luke 6:20-26 CSB**

20 Then looking up at his disciples, he said:

Blessed are you who are poor, because the kingdom of God is yours.

21 Blessed are you who are hungry now, because you will be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now, because you will laugh.

22 Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you, insult you, and slander your name as evil because of the Son of Man.

23 “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy. Take note—your reward is great in heaven, for this is the way their ancestors used to treat the prophets.

24 But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your comfort.

25 Woe to you who are now full, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are now laughing, for you will mourn and weep.

26 Woe to you when all people speak well of you, for this is the way their ancestors used to treat the false prophets.

VI. Looking at Life Through the Eyes of Heaven

- The Kingdom begins where (and when) self-sufficiency ends.
- When Jesus opens His Kingdom manifesto in Luke 6, He doesn't begin with commands, warnings, or expectations. He begins with blessing. But the blessings He pronounces sound nothing like the blessings we would choose for ourselves.
- Jesus looks at His disciples — not the crowds, but the ones who have already left everything to follow Him — and He says:
 - “Blessed are you who are poor...”
 - “Blessed are you who hunger now...”
 - “Blessed are you who weep now...”
 - “Blessed are you when people hate you...”
- If we're honest, nothing in us naturally calls these things “blessed.” We call them struggles. We call them setbacks. We call them seasons we want to escape. But Jesus calls them blessed. Why?
Because in the Kingdom of God, blessing is not measured by what you have — it's measured by who you depend on.
- The world says:
 - Blessed are the ones who have enough.
 - Blessed are the ones who feel secure.
 - Blessed are the ones who are comfortable.
 - Blessed are the ones who are admired.
- But Jesus says:
 - Blessed are the ones who know they need God.
 - Blessed are the ones who cannot sustain themselves.
 - Blessed are the ones who have run out of their own strength.
 - Blessed are the ones who cling to God because everything else has failed them.

- This is the first great reversal of the Kingdom: The places we try to avoid are often the places where God does His deepest work.
- Jesus is not glorifying poverty or pain. He is revealing a spiritual reality: Dependence is the doorway to blessing.
 - When you are poor in spirit — when you know you don't have what it takes — you become open to the God who does.
 - When you hunger for righteousness — when you long for something more — you become positioned to be filled.
 - When you weep — when your heart breaks — you discover the God who draws near to the brokenhearted.
 - When you are rejected for following Jesus — when the world pushes you out — you find yourself held by a Kingdom that cannot be shaken.
- Jesus is saying: *"You are blessed not because of your circumstances, but because of My presence in your circumstances."*
- This is why the Kingdom is so radically different ... It doesn't deny pain — it redefines it ... It doesn't celebrate suffering — it reveals God in the midst of it ... It doesn't call weakness good — it calls weakness the place where grace becomes visible.
- And this is where the Kingdom begins:
Not with strength, but with surrender. Not with abundance, but with dependence. Not with applause, but with humility.
- The Kingdom of God reverses what we call blessed because the Kingdom of God is built on a different foundation — a foundation where God is the source, God is the strength, and God is the center.
- In the Kingdom of God, blessing is not about what you hold in your hands — it's about who holds your heart.

VII. Who Do You Trust?

- If the blessings of Jesus shock us, the woes unsettle us even more. Because in the blessings, Jesus speaks to people who know they need God. But in the woes, Jesus speaks to people who believe they don't.
- He says:
 - "Woe to you who are rich..."
 - "Woe to you who are full now..."
 - "Woe to you who laugh now..."
 - "Woe to you when all people speak well of you..."
- At first glance, it sounds like Jesus is condemning wealth, joy, or reputation. But that's not what He's doing. Jesus is not attacking circumstances — He is exposing trust.
- The blessings reveal where God meets us. The woes reveal where we try to live without Him.

The “rich” Jesus speaks of are not simply people with money — they are people who believe they have enough without God.

The “full” are not just people with food — they are people who feel no hunger for righteousness.

The “laughing” are not people with joy — they are people who use pleasure to numb spiritual emptiness.

The “well-spoken-of” are not people with good character — they are people who live for the approval of others.

- In other words:
The woes are warnings about misplaced confidence.
- Jesus is saying, *“Be careful where you anchor your life. Be careful what you lean on. Be careful what you trust.”* Because the things we trust in most easily become the things that blind us to our need for God.
- And here’s the uncomfortable truth:
Most of us don’t struggle with the blessings — we struggle with the woes.
We don’t fear being poor in spirit; we fear being poor in resources.
We don’t fear hunger for righteousness; we fear hunger for comfort.
We don’t fear weeping; we fear losing our happiness.
We don’t fear rejection; we fear losing approval.
- The woes expose the subtle ways we build our lives on things that cannot hold us.
 - We trust our bank accounts to give us security.
 - We trust our comfort to give us peace.
 - We trust our success to give us identity.
 - We trust our reputation to give us worth.
- And Jesus says, “Woe to you... not because these things are evil, but because they are fragile.”
- The Kingdom of God exposes the foundations we build on — not to shame us, but to save us. Not to condemn us, but to call us back to what is eternal. Not to take something from us, but to free us from what cannot sustain us.
- Jesus is not trying to make life harder — He’s trying to make life truer.
He is saying: *“Anything you trust more than Me will eventually fail you. But everything you entrust to Me will be redeemed.”*
- This is why the Kingdom feels upside-down ... It confronts the places where we’ve placed our confidence. It reveals the illusions we cling to. It exposes the false security we’ve built our lives on.
- And it invites us — gently, firmly, lovingly — to trust in the only One who can hold us.
- The blessings show us where God meets us; the woes show us where we resist Him.

VIII. Reality Check

- By the time Jesus finishes speaking the blessings and the woes, one thing becomes unmistakably clear:
- The Kingdom of God is not simply a new set of rules — it is a new way of seeing reality.
- Luke 6 is not Jesus giving us a checklist. It's Jesus giving us a new lens. He is not saying, *"Try to be poor, try to be hungry, try to be sad, try to be rejected."* He is saying, *"Let Me show you how Heaven sees what you're going through."*
- Because the Kingdom of God doesn't just change your behavior — it changes your vision. And vision is everything.
When you see wrong, you live wrongly. When you see clearly, you live freely.
- Jesus is teaching His disciples — and us — that the world we grew up in has trained us to see life through a distorted lens.
- A lens shaped by:
 - self-protection ... self-promotion ... self-sufficiency ... comfort ... comparison ... applause
- But the Kingdom of God operates on a completely different wavelength.
Where the world sees loss, the Kingdom sees dependence.
Where the world sees weakness, the Kingdom sees openness.
Where the world sees rejection, the Kingdom sees identification with Christ.
Where the world sees emptiness, the Kingdom sees room for God to fill.
- Jesus is not just flipping values — He is correcting vision.
- He is saying:
"You've been taught to see life one way. But in My Kingdom, everything looks different."
- This is why the disciples had such a tough time understanding Jesus. He wasn't just teaching them new information — He was giving them a new worldview.
- And this is why Kingdom life feels so unnatural at first. Because we are not just learning new truths — we are unlearning old lies.
 - We are unlearning the lie that comfort equals blessing.
 - We are unlearning the lie that applause equals worth.
 - We are unlearning the lie that success equals security.
 - We are unlearning the lie that strength equals independence.
- And we are learning — slowly, painfully, beautifully — that the Kingdom of God is built on a different foundation.
- A foundation where:
 - dependence is strength ... surrender is victory ... humility is greatness ... hunger is holy ... tears are seeds ... rejection is identification with Christ.
- This is why Jesus begins with vision. Because you cannot live a Kingdom life until you see with Kingdom eyes.
- And here's the truth every disciple must face:
 - Kingdom vision is not natural — it is formed.
 - It is shaped. It is cultivated. It is given by God.

- Which means the life Jesus describes in Luke 6 is not something we can produce on our own.
- It must be formed in us by the Spirit of God.

IX. Wrapping Up (For Now)

- Jesus has shown us the vision of the Kingdom — a life that looks upside-down to the world but right-side-up to Heaven. But if we're honest, nothing in us naturally lives this way. We don't drift into Kingdom values. We don't stumble into Kingdom vision. Something deeper must be formed in us. And that's where we're going next. If Luke 6 reveals the shape of the Kingdom, Philippians 2 reveals the process. Jesus shows us what the Kingdom looks like; Paul shows us how the Kingdom is formed within us.
- Jesus gives us new eyes, but Paul tells us how those eyes are formed.
- Next week, Paul shows us the process — the inner work of God that makes Kingdom life possible.
- Let's Pray
- Grace First, Grace Always