

Sermon on the Plain: Woes (Luke 6:24-26)

- I. Introduction (Lk. 6:20-23)

- II. A **Personal** Confrontation (Mt. 5:1-12; Lk. 6:20-26; 11:23)

- III. Woe To You Who Are **Rich** (24; 1 Tim. 6:9-10; Lk. 18:25; Rev. 3:17-18; Jas. 5:1-3, 5)

- IV. Woe To You Who Are **Full Now** (25a; Lk. 12:16-21; Jer. 29:13; Lk. 16:23-25; Isa. 55:1-2; Jn. 6:35)

- V. Woe To You Who **Laugh Now** (25b; Jas. 4:8-9; Isa. 16:10)

- VI. Woe To You When **All People Speak Well of You** (26; 1 Tim. 3:7)

- VII. Conclusion: Your Best Life Now, or Later? (Mk. 8:34-37; Isa. 55:6-7)

Questions for Family Discussion

- Reflect: What **is** your greatest goal in life? What **should be** your greatest goal in life?
- Explain how Jesus “*divides the crowd*” here. Why does He get so **personal**? Should **we** ever get this personal?
- Is Jesus against **all** people who are wealthy, happy, and care about their reputation? Whom **is** He addressing with these woes? What **sort** of riches, satisfaction, laughter, and “reputation” does Jesus criticize and condemn?
- Hell is such a horrible place that we are often tempted to downplay its terrors, especially when we consider that people are actually going there! Why do you think Jesus speaks so bluntly and openly about Hell in the Scriptures?
- Do your beliefs and behavior demonstrate that you want your best life now, or later? Explain.
- If any of these woes applies to you, may you have any hope of salvation? Carefully consider Isaiah 55, esp. vv. 6-7.

False Churches (Ezekiel 13:1-23)

- I. Introduction (Rev. 2:9, 5; 18:4-5)
- II. The Word of God Is **Not** Their Highest Authority (**Ezek. 13:3, 6, 8-9**)
- III. They Are **Not** Subject to Christ's Yoke (Mt. 11:29; Ps. 2:3; **Ezek. 13:10**; Mt. 28:19f)
- IV. They Base Themselves More on Men Than on Jesus Christ (Eph. 4:14; **Ezek. 13:18**; Jn., 17:20-23; Ps. 133:1)
- V. They **Persecute** the Righteous (**Ezek. 13:22**)
- VI. Conclusion (2 Pet. 1:19; Jn. 10:27)

Belgic Confession Art. 29d: As for the false church, it assigns more authority to itself and its ordinances than to the Word of God; it does not want to subject itself to the yoke of Christ; it does not administer the sacraments as Christ commanded in his Word; it rather adds to them or subtracts from them as it pleases; it bases itself on men, more than on Jesus Christ; it persecutes those who live holy lives according to the Word of God and who rebuke it for its faults, greed, and idolatry.

These two churches are easy to recognize and thus to distinguish from each other.

Questions for Family Discussion

- Are you sure you can recognize a false or deforming church? How do you know? Name some of the things we should expect to see (or not see) in a false or deforming church.
- What is the “*yoke of Christ*” to which the church must subject itself? Consider Mt. 28:18-20. What are some ways churches may distract themselves from what Christ has actually called His church to be doing?
- How can even true churches slip into the grave error of “*basing themselves on men, more than on Jesus Christ*”?
- Rather than humble themselves and receive correction, false churches persecute and mock the saints. Why are true churches that hold fast to the *gospel* often much more **willing** to **humble themselves** and **receive correction**?
- **Are** these two churches easy to recognize and distinguish? What should guide you in this?