

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 6, 2008

Passage: Luke 6:17-26

Memory Passage: Philippians 4:4

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 6:17-19.** Where did this teaching take place? Compare this with the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:1.
- (b) Read Matthew 5:1-12 and compare it with Luke 6:20-26. What are the differences? What are the similarities? Was this the same sermon at the same place to the same people?
- (c) Quickly read through Luke 6:20-26. What is surprising about what Jesus says to the crowd? Is his view of what makes a person “blessed” the same as what the world would say? What are the differences?
- (d) What did Jesus do before he taught this sermon? What does this tell us about his priority in ministry (Luke 4:43-44)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 6:17-20. Talk about this sermon. Compare what Jesus says with what the world says to us today. Pray that you would be willing to seek your joy and happiness in Jesus rather than in the way of the world.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 6:20.** What is surprising about the statement that Jesus makes? Would you consider being poor to be a blessing?
- (b) Compare this with Matthew 5:3. What does Jesus emphasize in the Sermon on the Mount? What might this tell us about the kind of poverty that Jesus is referring to?
- (c) Read James 1:9-10. What does James tell the poor man (lowly) to glory in (rejoice in)? What does he tell the rich to glory in? How would these two exhortations relate to the passages in Matthew and Luke?
- (d) Some teach that wealth is promised to all of God’s children. What does this passage show us?
- (e) Does this mean that being poor is better than being rich? Is it a sin to be rich? Consider the following verses: James 2:5; 1 Timothy 6:6-10; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Genesis 13:3; Job 1:1-3; Matthew 19:23.
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 6:20 and 1 Timothy 6:6-10. What is the proper attitude toward riches? How are riches a barrier for people to come to Christ? Pray that God will show you ways to use what He has given you for His kingdom.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 6:21.** Is Jesus promising that all the world will be fed? What is the promise to those who hunger? When will this promise be received?
- (b) Read Luke 16:19-31. What does Abraham remind the rich man (Luke 16:25)? Is following Christ an easy life (Acts 14:22; 2 Timothy 3:12)?
- (c) Compare this with Matthew 5:6. What kind of hunger is Jesus primarily talking about (Psalm 42:1-2; Psalm 63:1-2)? How does that hunger result in blessedness? What is it that truly satisfies (Isaiah 55:1-3; John 4:14)?
- (d) Read Psalm 6:1-9 and Luke 6:20. What kind of mourning is Jesus referring to? Is it every kind of sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; John 16:20-22)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 6:21 and Isaiah 55:1-3. How does the picture of hunger relate to salvation? How does the picture of mourning relate to salvation? Pray for someone who does not know Christ. Pray that they would have a hunger in their soul to be saved and be right with God.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 6:22-23.** If we follow Christ with all our hearts, will everyone like us (1 Timothy 3:12; John 15:18-20; John 17:14; Philippians 1:28-30)?
- (b) What does Peter remind believers in 1 Peter 4:12-16? Why are they to rejoice (verse 13 and 14)? What promise or encouragement do we have in our sufferings for Christ?
- (c) How does Jesus tell them to respond when they are persecuted? What are the two reasons he gives them? How do rewards motivate us to live for Christ even when we are suffering?
- (d) How did the Jews treat the prophets? Read Matthew 23:31-37. What was Jesus’ response to this rejection (Matthew 23:37)? How should we respond when we are persecuted?
- (e) How did the disciples respond when they were persecuted (Acts 4:23-30; Acts 5:41)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 6:22-23 and talk about suffering for Christ. What are some ways that we suffer? Is rejection included in suffering for Christ? Pray that you might respond to suffering and rejection in ways that honor Christ.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Luke 6:24-27.** Why does Jesus pronounce a “woe” upon the rich? Would it be fair to say that they have gotten all they are going to get (if they do not have Christ)?
- (b) What does he say to those who are full? Does this mean that we cannot eat and be full? What is he referring to?
- (c) Is laughter wrong? Why does James say that we should mourn rather than laugh? How is this related to what we have studied in this passage?
- (d) Read Psalm 73:1-12. What was the psalmist’s view of the ungodly? What changed this view (Psalm 73:16-22)? What right view did the psalmist come to (Psalm 73:23-28)?
- (e) Why should we beware when people speak well of us? What does this make us think about ourselves? What is the danger of listening to men’s praises (Romans 16:18; Proverbs 29:25; John 9:22)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Luke 6:24-27 and Proverbs 29:25. Talk about some of the good things of this world. What can happen to us if we focus on them instead of focusing on heaven? Pray that you might see the overwhelming value of Jesus over everything this world has to offer.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Luke 6:17-26. How was the teaching of Jesus different from what most religious speakers promise today? Why does he present the contrast between this life and the life to come? What should be the focus of the disciple’s joy? Can we rejoice even if we are poor, hunger, sorrowful and rejected? Pray that we might rejoice together in all that awaits the children of God.

DATE: April 6, 2008

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The Disciple’s Joy

“Rejoice in that day and leap for joy!”