

June 4, 2023 AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier
Luke 6:24-26 – “Heed Christ’s Warnings”

- A. It is a loving thing to warn people of danger.
- B. A prominent theme that is becoming more evident in Luke’s gospel & in much of the NT is one of role reversal.

- 1. **Lu 1:52-53** “He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones, & has exalted those who were humble. He has filled the hungry with good things; & sent away the rich empty-handed”
- 2. After Jesus was born, Mary was told by the godly man Simeon in the temple, “Behold, this **Child is appointed for the fall & rise of many in Israel**” (**Lu 2:34**).

Heed Christ’s warnings.	I. A WARNING TO THE RICH & WELL-FED II. A WARNING TO THE JOKERS III. WARNING TO THE MAN-PLEASERS
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I. **A WARNING TO THE RICH & WELL-FED** → **vv24-25**: “But woe to you who are rich, for you are receiving your comfort in full. ²⁵Woe to you who are well-fed now, for you shall be hungry.”

- A. To get a wholistic view concerning riches, it is vital that we look at other Bible passages so that we can let Scripture interpret Scripture.

- 1. Although some obtain riches by immoral practices, **Prov 10** gives us a general truth about how a godly person can become rich: “**Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich**” (**v4**). Later in that same chapter **v22** says, “**It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, & He adds no sorrow to it.**”
 - a. For the ungodly person, there is sorrow, trouble, & worry added to their riches.
 - b. **Prov 10** tells us that riches are a good thing yet they can include sorrow if we lack God’s blessing & if we are not careful.
- 2. **Prov. 23:4-5** gives another warning: “**Do not weary yourself to gain wealth, cease from your consideration of it. When you set your eyes on it, it is gone. For *wealth* certainly makes itself wings like an eagle that flies toward the heavens.**”
 - a. The NKJV for **v4** says: “**Do not overwork to be rich.**”
 - b. If your life is consumed with making money it can greatly harm your physical, mental, & spiritual health.

- B. When Jesus said, “**Woe to you who are rich,**” I believe what He warned against is trusting in wealth rather than trusting in God.

- 1. Money can be an idol— another object of worship instead the God of heaven.
- 2. → **1 Tim 6:6-11... vv17-19**.

- a. With riches is the temptation to become “**conceited**” or proud.
- b. The danger of idolatry is mentioned in **v17**:
 - 1) It sin to fix your “**hope on the uncertainty of riches.**”
 - 2) Instead, fix your hope— “**on God.**” Put your faith in God through Christ.

- C. Jesus warned against being “**well-fed**” (**v25**) because food can be an idol just as money can.

- 1. This is a very important verse for us in Louisiana!
- 2. Some people think about & devote themselves way more to food than they do towards God.
- 3. For those whose god is their belly (**Phil 3:19**), Jesus warns them that hell is a place where such idolaters will suffer the pains of hunger & thirst for all eternity.

II. A WARNING TO THE JOKERS → **v25** “...**Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn & weep.**”

A. To some people everything in life is a joke.

1. Jokers make fun of others.

a. **Prov 26:18-19: “Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, & death, so is the man who deceives his neighbor, & says, ‘Was I not joking?’”**

b. Some people will even play a joke with others— deceiving them for weeks or even months— just to make fun of someone else.

1) Treat the matter for what it is— a breaking of the 9th commandment.

2) Lying should be taken very seriously because Scripture says of “...**murderers & immoral persons & sorcerers & idolaters & all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**”

2. Jokers make fun of matters that should be taken seriously

a. Examples include their job, relationships, responsibilities, & church.

b. Some laugh & joke around regarding matters such as sin.

1) They smile, laugh, & joke about sin when they should be weeping over their sinful ways.

2) If God’s Holy Word & Spirit gets a hold of them, they should instead grieve over their sin as they turn to Christ with faith & repentance.

3. The most vile joker is the one who makes fun of God Himself because they do not fear Him.

B. For the one to whom all in life is a joking matter, they will find themselves in unrelenting fire where they “**shall mourn & weep**” (**v25**).

III. A WARNING TO THE MAN-PLEASERS → **v26** “**Woe to when all men speak well of you, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way.**”

A. What **v26** here is talking about is the end result or road sign that points to a person who lives as a people-pleaser rather than one who puts God & His kingdom first.

B. We must have a balanced understanding of this issue of our relationship to others around us.

1. → **Rom 12:14-21:**

a. Some may read this passage & think that Christians are called to be “push-overs.”

You can express yourself or even disagree with others & still live at peace with them.

b. To be at peace requires your overlooking inconsiderate words & actions, insults, & even outright disrespect when necessary.

2. Being “**at peace with all men**” **Rom 12:18** does not mean compromising your Christian faith & practice to make others like you.

C. If your desire is to have “**all men speak well of you**” & favor you, you may be persuaded to be all things to all people.

1. That is impossible & it also means you are living a lie. You may say you are living to please others, but really you are consumed with yourself.

2. Your unbelieving coworkers should know that you have deep, steadfast Christian convictions; that is why you don’t laugh at their immoral or dirty jokes.

3. Ask God for grace to control your tongue from cursing— from foul language— equally whether you are inside or outside these church doors.

Review, further application, & conclusion: