

## Luke 6:20-26 True Joy and Sorrow

**Jesus assures His disciples that divine joy is found in the new order of His kingdom and that hopeless sorrow awaits those whose lives are invested in the old order of the kingdom of man.**

Definitions:

**Kingdom of Christ:** God's reign which has arrested human rebellion through the incarnation, obedience, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, which awaits consummation at His coming. It is administered by the righteous wisdom of God the Father through Christ the Divine Son and imparted by the Holy Spirit through His Word. This kingdom is characterized by holy love, as the subjects are being transformed into the image of God's Son. Because it is preserved by the power of God, the Kingdom of Christ is eternal.

**Kingdom of man (the world):** Humanity's revolutionary government that seeks independence from God. It is administered by the sinful folly of men who are hostile to God and His law. This kingdom is characterized by self-love, as the subjects are being conformed to the autonomy of the world system. Because it defies the God who gives life to all, death is already eating it and will consume it.

**New Order:** The redeemed order of life that God promised the patriarchs and prophesied through the OT prophets in His Kingdom. It was ushered in with the incarnation of Christ and bore its first fruits in His resurrection from the dead.

**Old Order:** The fallen order of life that labors under the condemnation of God's law, while seeking to progress independently of God. It was ushered in with the sin of Adam and persists in a variety of incarnations throughout history.

In the immediate context of Jesus and His earliest disciples the message was that the new order of Christ's kingdom was to displace the old order of national Israel that was alienated from God. Those who are entirely invested in that Christless order of reality may rejoice for a season, but it cannot last because Christ's kingdom alone will endure forever.

**How can we enter the joy of the Lord in the Kingdom of Christ?**

### 1) Maintain a Christ-centered faith in the world.

- a) Christ as King:
  - i) "Yours is the Kingdom of God" (v. 20b): meditate on the righteous wisdom that governs life in the kingdom and the holy love that defines the character of the kingdom
  - ii) "on account of the Son of Man" (v. 22): "Son of Man" points to Jesus' universal and eternal dominion.
- b) Christ as Rewarder:
  - i) Poverty, hunger, weeping, and rejection are not happy circumstances in themselves. When they are endured for the sake of Christ they are blessed (vv. 22-23).
  - ii) He satisfies the hungry and makes the mournful soul laugh.
- c) Know yourself as Christ's servant.
  - i) "so their fathers did to the prophets": Prophets were God's men in an apostate nation/generation
  - ii) "so their fathers did to the false prophets": False prophets were instruments and objects of God's judgment.

### 2) Maintain a future-sighted faith for the present.

- a) Eschatology that strengthens faith and obedience:
  - i) "now" and "in that day" (vv. 21, 23, 25) vs. "shall" and "in heaven" (vv. 21, 23, 25)
  - ii) Psalm 73
- b) Eschatology that is not relegated to the future:
  - i) "yours is the kingdom of God"
  - ii) "Blessed are you"
  - iii) The eschatological woes also intrude into the present (Luke 21:5-24).

### 3) Maintain a watchful eye on your heart.

- a) Watch out for consumerism that peddles a false sense of filling.
- b) Watch out for escapism that offers superficial "laughter."
- c) Watch out for craving man's applause that fosters unfaithfulness.