**Adult Bible Study: From Woe to Wonder**

**16 February 2025**

*A Study on Luke 6:17-26 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-20*

**Opening Prayer**

**Gracious and merciful Father, You have given us Your Word, which speaks both warning and blessing. Open our hearts today to hear the truth of Your Law and the comfort of Your Gospel. Let us see our sin clearly, that we may turn to Christ alone for salvation. Strengthen our faith and remind us of the eternal blessedness we have in Him. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.**

**Introduction: The Great Reversal**

Think about this for a moment: **"When have you seen a situation in life where things were 'flipped upside down'—where what seemed good turned out bad, or what seemed bad turned out to be a blessing?"** Might you have any thoughts?

Jesus’ teaching in Luke 6 turns the world’s expectations upside down. The things people naturally value—wealth, comfort, laughter, and reputation—are warned against. Meanwhile, those who suffer poverty, hunger, sorrow, and rejection are called **blessed**. Why? Because in Christ, **earthly woe is exchanged for eternal wonder**. This is what we call **the Great Reversal**—the way God’s kingdom works differently from the world.

**Part 1: The Woes – The Loving Warning of the Law *(Luke 6:24-26; 1 Corinthians 15:12-19)***

🔹 **Read Luke 6:24-26 aloud.**

**Discussion Questions**

1. **What is Jesus warning about in these Woes?**
	* (Jesus warns about the danger of trusting in **earthly wealth, comfort, and approval** instead of in Him.)
2. **Is Jesus saying it is sinful to have money, food, joy, or a good reputation? Why or why not?**
	* (No. The problem is **not the blessings themselves, but trusting in them instead of God**.)
3. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. How does Paul’s warning about faith without resurrection compare to Jesus’ Woes?**
	* (If Christ is not raised, then we are still in our sins—**just like those who trust in this life alone** will ultimately face woe.)

🔹 **Key Takeaway:**
Jesus **lovingly warns** against placing our hope in things that will pass away. **True security is found in Him alone.**

**Part 2: The Blessings – The Gospel Invitation *(Luke 6:20-23; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11)***

🔹 **Read Luke 6:20-23 aloud.**

**Discussion Questions**

1. **Why does Jesus call the poor, hungry, weeping, and hated "blessed"?**
	* (Because **God’s kingdom belongs to them**—they rely not on themselves, but on Christ.)
2. **Dr. Just says the Beatitudes are like an "Absolution"—a speech act that gives what it declares. How does this change how we read these verses?**
	* (Jesus is not just describing a condition—**He is making a promise and giving a blessing**.)
3. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. How does Paul’s proclamation of the Gospel reinforce Jesus’ words?**
	* (Paul declares **what Christ has already done**—just as Jesus declares **what He gives to those who trust in Him**.)

🔹 **Key Takeaway:**
Jesus’ Beatitudes **are not conditions to meet, but gifts to receive**. The poor, the hungry, and the mourning are blessed **because they belong to Christ**, and He **promises them eternal joy**.

**Part 3: The Great Reversal in Christ *(Luke 6:17-26; 1 Corinthians 15:20)***

🔹 **Read 1 Corinthians 15:20 aloud.**

**Discussion Questions**

1. **What is the "Great Reversal" that happens because of Christ’s resurrection?**
	* (Death turns to life, sorrow turns to joy, and the world’s priorities are flipped upside down.)
2. **How does the resurrection prove that the Beatitudes are true?**
	* (Because Christ has risen, we know that the kingdom **is real, suffering will end, and eternal joy is certain**.)
3. **In what ways do we still experience the "now and not yet" of the Beatitudes today?**
	* (We still face trouble in this world, but we live in the **certainty** of Christ’s victory.)

🔹 **Key Takeaway:**
Jesus **became poor, hungry, sorrowful, and rejected**—taking our Woes so that **we could receive His eternal blessings**. Because He lives, the Great Reversal has already begun.

**Closing Reflection: Living as People of the Great Reversal**

The world still tells us that blessing is found in **money, success, comfort, and approval**. But Jesus tells us the truth: **Blessing is found in Him alone.**

Think about this: **"How does knowing that the kingdom is already ours in Christ change how we live daily?"**

(Possible answers: We can trust God in hard times, let go of worldly anxieties, live generously, share our faith boldly, and rejoice in Christ no matter what comes.)

**Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, You have shown us today the deep truth of Your kingdom—that in Christ, sorrow turns to joy, and woe turns to wonder. Strengthen our faith, that we may not trust in the fleeting things of this world, but in the eternal blessings that You give us in Jesus. Help us to live as people of the Great Reversal, always rejoicing in the victory of Christ’s resurrection. In His name we pray. Amen.**

**For Further Study and Devotion This Week**

**Suggested Daily Readings:**
📖 **Monday:** Matthew 5:1-12 (*The Beatitudes in Matthew—similarities and differences*)
📖 **Tuesday:** Psalm 34 (*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted; He delivers those in need*)
📖 **Wednesday:** Isaiah 61:1-3 (*The prophecy that Jesus fulfills in the Beatitudes*)
📖 **Thursday:** 2 Corinthians 8:9 (*Jesus became poor so that we might become rich in Him*)
📖 **Friday:** Revelation 21:1-7 (*The final fulfillment of the Beatitudes in the New Creation*)

**Reflection Questions for the Week:**

* What worldly things am I tempted to place my trust in?
* How does the certainty of Christ’s resurrection change how I face suffering?
* How can I reflect the kingdom values of the Beatitudes in my daily life?