**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 09 November 2022 – Fall Semester**

**Queens Chapel UMC \* 7410 Muirkirk Road \* Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Will Butler**

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

**The Gospel of Luke**

**Luke 6:20-23 (NIV)**

**(Part 1)**

 20 Looking at his disciples, he said: “Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.
 21 Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.
Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.
 22 Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

 23 “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Lesson**

**Luke 6:20**

***“Looking at his disciples, he said: “Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.”***

**Matthew 5:3**

 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

1. Spiritual Bankruptcy
2. Conscience of one’s lostness
3. Conscience of one’s hopelessness

**How does** **Spiritual Bankruptcy result in one entering the kingdom of heaven?**

**Luke 15:14-19 (NIV) “The Lost Son”**

 **14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.**

 **15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.**

 **16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.**

 **17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!**

 **18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.**

 **19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ 20 So he got up and went to his father.**

Spiritual Bankruptcy should result in one entering the **kingdom of Heaven.**

**and/or God**

Note:

 **While some believe that the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven are referring to different things, it is clear that both phrases are referring to the same thing. The phrase “kingdom of God” occurs 68 times in 10 different New Testament books, while “kingdom of heaven” occurs only 32 times, and only in the Gospel of Matthew.**

**https://www.gotquestions.org/kingdom-heaven-God.html**

**What is the Kingdom of God?**

* The kingdom of God is the spiritual rule over the hearts and lives of those who willingly and humbly submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
* Put another way, those who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are **“Kingdom-Focused**”
* Those who are willing to obey His Word, become “**Disciple-Strong**.”

**The kingdom of God** is both eternity in heaven with God after death and special quality of life in Christ upon the earth before death

**John 10:10**

**“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”**

* The nature, quality, and characteristics of the “*special quality of life*” under the power of the Kingdom
* 1) God will enlarge our steps—**2 Samuel 22:37 (NKJV)**

 “You enlarged my path under me; So my feet did not slip.”

* In the Kingdom, we will achieve things we never thought possible or didn't plan to accomplish in life
* 2) God blesses us in the Kingdom—**1 Chronicle 4:9-10 (NLT)**

 9 There was a man named Jabez who was more honorable than any of his brothers. His mother named him Jabez because his birth had been so painful.

 10 He was the one who prayed to the God of Israel, “Oh, that you would bless me and expand my territory! Please be with me in all that I do, and keep me from all trouble and pain!” And God granted him his request.

* In the Kingdom God enlarges our territory in accordance to our faith. First, we must look at three areas: **(a)** define where you are, **(b)** where you want to be, and **(c)** what your commitment is to the Kingdom and your overall mission.
* **3)** **God fills us with the fullness of God**—**Ephesians 3:17-19**

 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height--

 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

* We will never be able to completely understand the fullness of God here on earth. However, we can experience what God has for us in His Kingdom by living in obedience and devotion to the *finished work of Christ* and being faithful to the *continuing work of the Holy Spirit*.

**Luke 6:21**

 ***“Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.
Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.”***

**Amplified Version**

 ***Blessed [joyful, nourished by God’s goodness] are you who hunger now [for righteousness, actively seeking right standing with God], for you will be [completely] satisfied.***

 ***Blessed [forgiven, refreshed by God’s grace] are you who weep now [over your sins and repent], for you will laugh [when the burden of sin is lifted]***

1. One who hungers or seeks God’s righteousness and not his/her own

**Romans 10:1-3**

 **1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.**

 **2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.**

 **3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.**

**What is a self-righteous person?**

**What’s the difference between being self-righteous and confident in your righteousness?**

**Luke 18:9-14**

 **9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:**

 **10 “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.**

 **11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.**

 **12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’**

 **13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’**

 **14 “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”**

 A self-righteous person is one who is confident in his/her own righteousness. That is, a self-righteous person shows superiority above all others, especially if they have a different opinion than others.

**Isaiah 64:4-7**

 **4 For since the world began, no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him!
 5 You welcome those who gladly do good, who follow godly ways.
But you have been very angry with us, for we are not godly. We are constant sinners; how can people like us be saved?
 6 We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.
 7 Yet no one calls on your name or pleads with you for mercy. Therefore, you have turned away from us and turned us over to our sins**