

Week 3: Questions for Thoughtful Reflection and Application

Work through the following questions and reflect on how you might apply the teaching to your life. Read through these passages in both the NET (a literal translation) and the NLT (a freer modern translation). You may substitute one of these translations with reading from your favorite Bible like KJV, NIV.

1. Luke 6:20-26 is a section of the Sermon that speaks both comfort and discomfort.
 - a. Jesus is speaking to different groups, addressing them as “**you**.” Describe these 2 groups in your own words, thinking about who they would represent today in our own lives. **I believe the 2 groups are believers and non-believers. Believers are blessed with heavenly riches. In the world we are poor because our riches are not of the world, we are hungry because we hunger for the things of God, we weep waiting for our day in heaven and people do not like us, because of Jesus and reject us. But joy comes because of the rewards in heaven. People that have the things of the world have it for today and have nothing in heaven. They may think they have it all but it is only surface things and not things forever.**
 - b. Do you find this section comforting or disturbing? Explain in a couple of sentences why you find these statements by Jesus to be comforting or disturbing. **I find it comforting because I know whatever I face, my life is in the Lord's hands and it is forever. No matter what we go through we can be assured that in heaven it is much better.**

NET

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are **you** who are poor, for the kingdom of God belongs to **you**."

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**, and when they exclude **you** and insult **you** and reject **you** as evil on account of the Son of Man!"

²³ Rejoice in that day, and jump for joy, because your reward is great in heaven. For their ancestors did the same things to the prophets."

²⁴ "But woe to **you** who are rich, for **you** have received **your** comfort already."

²⁵ "Woe to **you** who are well satisfied with food now, for **you** will be hungry."

"Woe to **you** who laugh now, for **you** will mourn and weep."

²⁶ "Woe to **you** when all people speak well of **you**, for their ancestors did the same things to the false prophets."

NLT

²⁰ Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said,

"God blesses **you** who are poor, for the Kingdom of God is yours."

²¹ God blesses **you** who are hungry now, for **you** will be satisfied."

God blesses **you** who weep now, for in due time **you** will laugh."

²² What blessings await **you** when people hate **you** and exclude **you** and mock **you** and curse **you** as evil because **you** follow the Son of Man."

²³ When that happens, be happy! Yes, leap for joy! For a great reward awaits you in heaven."

And remember, their ancestors treated the ancient prophets that same way.

²⁴ "What sorrow awaits **you** who are rich, for **you** have your only happiness now.

²⁵ What sorrow awaits **you** who are fat and prosperous now, for a time of awful hunger awaits **you**.
What sorrow awaits **you** who laugh now, for **you** laughing will turn to mourning and sorrow.

²⁶ What sorrow awaits **you** who are praised by the crowds,
for their ancestors also praised false prophets.

2. Luke 6:27-31. This section begins with Jesus speaking to "you who are listening"/"willing to listen."

a. Why does Jesus draw attention to this group? **He draws attention to this group because they are followers of Jesus.** What kind of people are these? **They love Christ they know he is the Messiah.**

b. What command does Jesus give to this group? **To love your enemies.**

c. What kinds of actions do enemies do? **Hurt people, hate people** Is there anyone like that in your life? **Yes, there are people that don't like what I stand for, they don't like who I am today and use my past to try to harm me.**

What kinds of responses are we to make? **We are to turn the other cheek, love them, bless them.** How might you start to respond this way to the people you listed in question c? **I have started that, but it is not easy. I bless those that curse me, but it is very hard.**

NET

d.

²⁷ **"But I say to you who are listening:**

Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

²⁹ To the person who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other as well,
and from the person who takes away your coat, do not withhold your tunic either.

³⁰ Give to everyone who asks you,
and do not ask for your possessions back from the person who takes them away.

³¹ **Treat others in the same way that you would want them to treat you.**

NLT

²⁷ **"But to you who are willing to listen,**

I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you.

²⁸ Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you.

²⁹ If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also.

³⁰ Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don't try to get them back.

³¹ **Do to others as you would like them to do to you.**

3. An important section of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain is Luke 6:32-38.

- a. Compare the actions of the **you** and the **sinner**s, then respond to what Jesus means by this way of saying this teaching ("If you...even sinners"). **He says what good does it do us to love people who love us, and do good for people who does good to us. It credits us nothing. We can do that all do and it is meaningless.**
- b. What do we learn about the nature of love Jesus wants us to have? What are some ways you could become a more loving person? **Being nice to the person that treats us the worst. Bless them, give them something they need. Love on them is the way we should be.**
- c. Try putting one insight you gained from this section into practice this week and write out what you learned about yourself and God. **I learn I have a lot of work to do on myself to walk as Jesus walked, but it is well worth the work. What we benefit out of that will be better even than the person we blessed. I am excited to work with the Holy Spirit on this daily.**

NET

³² **"If you** love those who love you, what credit is that to you?

For **even sinners** love those who love them.

³³ And **if you** do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you?

Even sinners do the same.

³⁴ And **if you** lend to those from whom you hope to be repaid, what credit is that to you?

Even sinners lend to sinners, so that they may be repaid in full.

³⁵ But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing back.

Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to ungrateful and evil people.

³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged;
do not condemn, and you will not be condemned;
forgive, and you will be forgiven.

³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you:

A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be poured into your lap.

For the measure you use will be the measure you receive."

NLT

³² **"If you** love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that?

Even sinners love those who love them!

³³ And **if you** do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit?

Even sinners do that much!

³⁴ And **if you** lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit?

Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

³⁵ "Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid.

Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked.

³⁶ You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

³⁷ "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged.
Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you.
Forgive others, and you will be forgiven.

³⁸ Give, and you will receive.

Your gift will return to you in full -- pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap.

The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."