



WEEKLY STUDY

WEEK 2

This Sunday (April 14, 2024) was a very special Sunday at Providence Church. It marked the beginning of a new ministry initiative and partnership with Compassion International. Through our Christmas Offering, we have already provided funding for new programs in Peru that will offer care for infants and very young children. As of this week, we are also able to sponsor children over the age of 5 as they receive medical care, an education and the love of God through Jesus Christ. Contact our Director of Outreach, Eve Southworth for up to date information on sponsorship opportunities.

Luke 6.17-26 includes words of Jesus as he shares with a crowd that has experienced the healing power of God through him. The people came to Jesus to hear and to be healed (verse 18). Notice this week how those two things go hand in hand. Healing without hearing can lead to relief but also a sense of emptiness. Hearing without healing creates an ache for things to be made right. May you find both as you study and pray this week.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 6.17-19 (ESV)

And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon,¹⁸ who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.¹⁹ And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

- A more cynical view of the crowds that gathered around Jesus would lead us to believe that they were just looking out for themselves. They only wanted relief from an urgent medical or spiritual need. But here we find that the motives were, at worst, mixed. People did want to hear what Jesus

had to say, because his words were so challenging and yet compelling. **What steps have you taken to hear the teaching of Jesus and to experience the healing power that can come “out from him”?**

- *God, thank you for offering us healing and a fresh word from Jesus that reveals more about your heart towards us. Amen.*

TUESDAY: LUKE 6.20-23 (ESV)

And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ *“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.*

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

²² *“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! ²³ Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.*

- Now that Jesus has the attention of the crowd, he turns to his disciples and explains what is happening. This is where Jesus reveals the upside-down nature of the Kingdom. The result that he is proclaiming for the poor, hungry, and sad is in the future. It’s not necessarily guaranteed for today. But for today, those in the crowd received healing. Maybe the healing gave them hope that the future kingdom, food, and laughter was close by. Enough hope to persevere with eyes open for the coming kingdom of God. **Where have you found hope and strength to carry on through trials?**
- *God, I look for the fulfillment of Jesus’ words to come true in my lifetime, maybe even today. May the hungry be satisfied, and those who weep–laugh. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 6.24-26(NIV)

“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ *“Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.*

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

²⁶ *“Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.*

- No one likes words of woe, especially when they come from the Son of God. We tend to look over our shoulder to see who the intended audience must be. *Surely it is not us who are rich, full, and filled with laughter.* The words of woe are a call for all of us to pay attention. **Is it possible to be poor in spirit even while we steward riches? How do these words challenge you?**
- *God, I want to see your kingdom come, and I long to be truly satisfied by the food that only you can provide. Amen.*

THURSDAY: MATTHEW 5.3-10 (NIV)

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

⁴ *Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

⁵ *Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.*

- ⁶ *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.*
- ⁷ *Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*
- ⁸ *Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.*
- ⁹ *Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.*
- ¹⁰ *Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

- These words are from the longer Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7. There, Jesus was revealing the true nature of God's Kingdom. We could go through each line here and show how the world seems to be teaching us the opposite. It all sounds so counter to the powers of this world!
Compare and contrast this account of Jesus' beatitudes with the words recorded in Luke 6. What would it look like for these things to be true here and now on earth?
- *God, give me a vision of your Kingdom on earth. Train my eyes to see where it is already breaking through. Call me to serve there. Amen.*

FRIDAY: MATTHEW 25.14-30 (NIV)

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²² "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴ "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸ “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

- The parable of the bags of gold. This is a difficult teaching. It is, in fact, a parable and not a historic account. We have to read it that way. What we figure out is that the one who was given the least acted like he had nothing. He buried his small gift because he was afraid of losing it. That’s a scarcity mentality. Blessed are those who have little but realize they have everything they need. Many who have experienced poverty first hand or visited areas of great need will tell you that the happiest and most generous people are those who have little. **What does the teaching mean for those who have more than enough? How should they live? What does it mean for those who have little? How should they live? Where is the hope for both groups of people?**
- *God, you have entrusted me with many gifts. I have a sense that they are not truly mine but yours. Fix my heart to remember this truth and increase my generosity. Amen.*

SATURDAY: PSALM 41.1-10 (NIV)

*Blessed are those who have regard for the weak;
the Lord delivers them in times of trouble.*

² *The Lord protects and preserves them—
they are counted among the blessed in the land—
he does not give them over to the desire of their foes.*

³ *The Lord sustains them on their sickbed
and restores them from their bed of illness.*

⁴ *I said, “Have mercy on me, Lord;
heal me, for I have sinned against you.”*

⁵ *My enemies say of me in malice,
“When will he die and his name perish?”*

⁶ *When one of them comes to see me,
he speaks falsely, while his heart gathers slander;
then he goes out and spreads it around.*

⁷ *All my enemies whisper together against me;
they imagine the worst for me, saying,*

⁸ *“A vile disease has afflicted him;
he will never get up from the place where he lies.”*

⁹ *Even my close friend,
someone I trusted,
one who shared my bread,
has turned against me.*

¹⁰ *But may you have mercy on me, Lord;
raise me up, that I may repay them.*

- This is a Psalm of David. From what we know of David’s life, he regularly felt the attack of enemies. Enemies often seize on weakness, humility, and compassion. As David grew in understanding of God’s ways, he was aware that following God might only increase the activity of his enemies, but he kept his trust in God’s mercy. **How are you able to put your trials in the hands of God and trust that God will protect you from your enemies?**
- *Lord, fill me with confidence that you will continue to sustain and preserve me. Amen.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Read [this passage from A.W. Tozer's classic book, The Pursuit of God.](https://renovare.org/articles/blessedness-possessing-nothing)
<https://renovare.org/articles/blessedness-possessing-nothing>

- What does it mean to have everything but possess nothing?
- Abraham realized that his real treasures were inward, not outward. Are you aware of the distinction between inward and outward treasures in your life? How are you able to pay attention to the less obvious “inward and eternal” treasures?