

Dependence on God

Scripture Focus: Luke 6:20–26 (The Beatitudes and Woes)

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.*

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

²⁵ *Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry.*

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

²⁶ *Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.*

Summary

In the Sermon on the Plain, Jesus describes the "blessed" as those who are in need, such as the poor, the hungry, and the weeping. Their lack pushes them to rely fully on God. Dependence means trusting in God's care and eternal rewards instead of relying on material wealth, social status, or personal comfort.

Inward

- In Luke's version of the Beatitudes, Jesus speaks to those who are physically poor and hungry. In what areas of your life do you feel most "self-sufficient," and how might that sense of security be hindering your actual dependence on God?
- Looking at the "Woes" (v. 24–26), what earthly comforts or "good reputations" are you most tempted to rely on for your identity rather than God's favour?
- Reflecting on your faith, has the idea of a transactional faith challenged you? What are some ways you can lean deeper into a covenant relationship with God?

Outward

- How does this value of dependence challenge our current church culture, and what would it look like for us to embody this more fully in our local neighbourhood?
- What is one way we can hold each other accountable or support one another in living out this value as a community this week?

Prayer Focus

- Spend time in confession and surrender, handing over areas of self-sufficiency over to God.
- Pray for trust in God for both ourselves and our community.