



Sermon Notes

Term – Spring Term

Series – Gospel of Luke

Gathering & Date – 12th January 2020

Title – Following Jesus: from the inside out

Preacher –Neil Shepherd

Reading – Luke 6:17-26

Main message of this talk in one sentence: In responding the invitation to follow Jesus, the values of the Kingdom grow from the inside out

Main points –

Recap the journey so far in Luke

Reading: Luke 6:17-26

I shared some of my story of growing up in a family that attended church but encountered Jesus in a real and living way at the age of 13. I struggled to know what to do next but over the years discovered the invitation of Jesus to follow him.

Salvation starts with a simple ‘yes’ to God. Discipleship starts when we say yes to surrender our lives to following Jesus

In our reading, Jesus is speaking to the crowd and performs miracles as a sign of God’s coming Kingdom. Jesus turns to the disciple, those he has invited to follow him, and tells them they need to get this important shift in the values of the new Kingdom.

In Luke it is called the sermon on the plains whilst in Matthew’s Gospel it is called the sermon on the mount (or the beatitudes) They are slightly different which suggests they are different talks but speaking about the same values.

Blessed means ‘happy’ but is more than just a happy feeling and more like a contentment, a peace, a deep joy

Woe means ‘sadness’. God is sad for those who think they have enough without Him.

4 areas:

1. Blessed are the poor

The poor literally means ‘those that beg’ and it describes more than just how much money we have. It speaks of where our reliance is – are we trusting God for and with all we have or are we self-reliant on our own material possessions.

2. Blessed are the hungry

Those that are hungry seek for more to satisfy whether it is physical, emotional or spiritual needs. Everything we have ultimately leaves us hungry for more – where do we look for satisfaction? Are we turning to God to fulfil all our needs or do we turn to others, or to food and drink to satisfy, or to stuff on the computer. Are we seeking ways to self-gratify or will we surrender ourselves to God who satisfies us to the deepest of levels

3. Blessed are those that weep

In a world that is broken, are we a people who ‘weep’ for these things. As we follow Jesus, He will lead us to those that are broken and lost and will we respond to these needs as we recognise the brokenness of our world.

4. Blessed are those that are hated

Following Jesus is not a easy task. People will not like us for doing it. In our culture this can be more subtle but at times can be more blatant in the workplace or friendship and family groups. Jesus tells us that we can expect this but that we are blessed because we are seeking God's Kingdom first

For further thought and prayer –

1. Last week, we started the New Year remembering that Jesus invites us to follow him. What does it mean for you to follow Jesus in this coming year?
2. Today's reading from Luke's Gospel beginnings the unpacking of the values of the new Kingdom. As you re-read the passage what is one encouragement and what is one challenge that this passage brings for you?
3. During the talk, I suggested that salvation starts with a simple yes to God and discipleship starts with surrender to God. Is this a helpful statement? How does it help you to understand discipleship?
4. The word 'poor' can be translated as 'one who begs'. It is not a measure of wealth but a measure of where we put our material confidence. Where is God challenging us to rely on him more in this coming year rather than in our own resources and abilities?
5. Those that are hungry look to others for the things that will satisfy. Are there other things in our lives that we use to try and satisfy our needs that replaces God?
6. The word HALT is an acronym for Hungry, Angry, Lonely and Tired; when we exhibit these feels and emotions in our lives do we allow God to 'feed us' or do we look to other things – physical food, drink, shopping, pornography etc.
7. Take some time to pray for the areas in our lives, and world, where God is calling us to 'weep' for the situations that are not as God would have them be
8. Are there areas of life that you feel under pressure from for being a Christian – it may not feel like you are hated but it can feel a challenge to live out your faith. Share these situations and pray for each other