

## Life, Together | Jesus and Blessing | October 6, 2019

**Scripture Reading: Luke 6:20-26**

Jesus is heard here pointing out that what people have a tendency to use as their gauge for the evidence of God's blessing in their life, is perhaps was a little short-sited. In this passage Jesus is upturning the deep seated values that people place on certain things more than other things. Most specifically, Jesus is calling us to consider how we determine how things are going for us individually or and how we are "getting along."

In some ways Jesus is holding up a human score card calling into question the deeper values that are influencing their evaluation of how things were going in their lives.

Poverty	Riches	= Possessions (stuff)
Hunger	Satisfied	= Provision
Sorrow	Laughter	= Participation (experiences)
Defamation	Commendation	= Popularity (relationships)

### MAIN POINT #1

Jesus is not asking us to seek discomfort, Jesus was asking the crowd to realize that God always holds a brighter promise for us even when we think things are moving along ok. We are to hold loosely to everything "deemed" of this earth and hold tightly to God, for it is in God that our security lies and our earthly and eternal destiny lies.

*Whether we are running red or running black we are to seek God and determine to find our dependency upon God. God in the centre of our lives is that which brings security, destiny, divine blessing and divine joy!*

Poverty	Riches	Possessions (stuff)
Hunger	Satisfied	Provision
Sorrow	Laughter	Participation (experiences)
Defamation	Commendation	Popularity (relationships)
<b>COMFORT</b>	<b>CAUTION</b>	<b>GOD AT THE CENTER</b>

#### *MAIN POINT #2 - God at the Center*

This passage is about enlarging God and practising the sovereignty of God in all situations. Establishing a clear and solid truth about God's kingship and lordship in our lives. Rehearsing and committing to the reality of God's overarching, undergirding strength and might to keep us in all circumstances. Whether we are running the Red Column or the Black Column.

#### *MAIN POINT #3*

Jesus brings hope for those who don't feel they have any. This is the gospel. The purity of the gospel is unavoidable here. God's gift of favour and grace to people no matter their outer circumstances or appearances. This is core message of the gospel of Luke. To the non-be-longer, you belong. Hear Jesus' invitation TODAY . To the downtrodden, forgotten, the one on the ropes, people with nowhere to turn (isn't that all of us?), believe the good news of the gospel, trust God, enlarge your view of God, receive all that God has for you.

**Read Psalm 62** - *How does David in this Psalm commit to God being at the centre?*

#### MAIN POINT #4

Jesus looked at the crowd and had picked up a self sufficient vibe and offered a word of caution

Thomas Merton: "We cannot find him unless we know we need him. We forget this need when we take a self-sufficient pleasure in our own good works. This is why the poor and helpless are often the first to find Jesus, the one who came to seek and save that which was lost."

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. *Do you feel you are "running red" or "running in the black?"*
2. *In what ways have you committed to keeping God at the Center?*
3. *Is there any area of your life today that you need hope?*
4. *Who is around you these days that God is leading you to be a voice of hope?*