

LUKE I New Principles For Living Text: Luke 6:20–49

How To Live a Blessed Life

Introduction:

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1. If We Were to Ask the greatest Teacher in History How to have a Blessed Life—
What Would He Say? —We Are About to Find Out
 2. EX: 10 Commandments—Half define their relation to God, Half in relation to others
 3. So When Jesus was asked what is the greatest commandment: Love God with all
your heart, soul and mind, and to love others as yourself: it encompasses all.
 4. But Jesus will cover even more... Concerning Circumstances, People, Self & God
New Principles for Living a Blessed Life
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I. MORAL PRINCIPLES FOR A BLESSED LIFE

A. OUR ATTITUDE CONCERNING OUR CIRCUMSTANCES (v.20–26)

1. Is Blessing Bestowed by the the World? Or is Blessing Bestowed by God?
 - a) It Depends on Who You Ask and What Narrative Your Listening to...
2. We're tempted to believe the Narrative of the World...
 - a) That the People, Possessions, Prominence, and Power Will Make Us Happy
3. Jesus is describing True Reality as opposed to the Narrative of the World
 - a) True Happiness is not from the World—it is only from God!
4. But It Takes FAITH To Believe and Accept the Truth

B. OUR ATTITUDE CONCERNING PEOPLE (v.27–38)

This May Be the Most DEMANDING and Most DEBATED Teaching Jesus ever gave!
Our 1st reaction is to pull back or Water Down these !

1. —How can anyone love their enemies? (v.27-28)

First this is not talking about love as an emotion or feeling,

- a) You Can't Love Your Enemy in the Way You Love Your Family...
 - b) This is Agape the Highest Love—a Determination to do what is best for that person.
 - c) So What is Best for our Enemies? The Invitation of the Gospel which we live out in our life of grace and forgiveness of others because of the grace and forgiveness of God
2. —Will We Be Overcome By Evil—or Overcome Evil with Good?
 - a) You Can't Pray for Someone and Hate Them at the Same Time...
 - b) You Bless Them BY Praying for them
3. —Can You Take an Insult? —or Are You a Victim? (v.29-30)
 - a) To Be Slapped in the Face is a Severe Form of Insult...
 - b) Not Everyone will Treat You Right... Can you be Willing to Suffer a Wrong?
4. —What if We Don't Know How to Treat Someone? (v.31)
 - a) Your Angry and on the Edge of Retaliation... What Should You Do?

b) Jesus gives us a Principle of Wisdom for when we are not sure...

c) Treat Them the Way You Would Want to be treated

5. —Why Are We Called to a Higher Moral Standard than the World? (v.32-38)

To Be Like Our Father in Heaven Who Forgave Us!

C. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SELF (v.39–45)

1. Can the Blind Lead the Blind? (v.39-40)

a) We must be Honest within ourself... Who do we follow?

b) Are We Being Led by the Lord — Or By Our Own Opinions? (Proverbs 3:5-8)

2. Are We Hyper-Focused on the Speck in someone's eye

but unable to see the Log in our own eye? (v.41-42)

a) God wants Honesty—Not Hypocrisy to Rule Our Heart

3. A Tree is Known By It's Fruit (v.43-45)

—Our Life Reveals the True Nature of Our Heart

D. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD (v.46–49)

1. Jesus is talking about Obedience... (v.46)

a) Obeying Jesus is Building your life on an Indestructible Foundation.

b) Ignoring Jesus is building a HOUSE OF CARDS that is ready to fall.

2. The Storms of Life Are Real—They Hit Hard and Without Warning.

An Tragic Accident, A Sudden Layoff, an Illness, a Separation, Terminal Cancer, a Death

These Storms Hit everyone, good and bad—only the life built on the rock will withstand

II. MORAL CHARACTER FOR A BLESSED LIFE

A. To Handle CIRCUMSTANCES of Life —> Requires TRUE FAITH in God

1. Only True Faith Can Handle True Reality—not false narratives of the world

2. But We Must Walk by Faith - Not By Sight

B. To Handle PEOPLE in Life —> Requires TRUE LOVE for Others

1. Not a Selfish Love of this world—a super-natural love only from God!

2. That Can Forgive those who have hurt you & Pray for those who used you

C. To Handle Problems of Life —> Requires TRUE HONESTY with Ourselves

1. The Blind Cannot Lead the Blind – We Must Be Honest Within Ourselves

2. Our Faith cannot be in our opinions—but in God Himself

D. To Handle the Storms of Life —> Requires TRUE OBEDIENCE to God

1. The Storms of Life Hit without mercy and without warning...

2. A life of Obedience to God will withstand every storm!

E. WHEN ALL OF THESE ARE COMBINED...

1. TRUE FAITH, TRUE LOVE, TRUE HONESTY TRUE OBEDIENCE TO GOD

2. WILL WE EXPERIENCE ENJOY TRUE HAPPINESS!

III. MORAL DISCERNMENT FOR A BLESSED LIFE

A. OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD

1. Evil cannot be overcome by evil - only with good
2. Darkness cannot be overcome by darkness - only with light
3. Hate cannot be overcome with hate - only with love

B. GUARD YOUR HEART...

1. We Wonder: Why Should We Love & Forgive Our Enemies?
But What Happens When You Hate Your Enemies...
2. You Think By Hating them and Not Forgiving Them You Are Holding them
Prisoner — But They Aren't the Prisoner—YOU Are!
3. Harboring Hate is Harmful—Toxic to Yourself & Others
 - a) When Your Enemy Becomes Your Center—
 - b) Our View of Reality is Distorted by Anger, Resentment, and Bitterness
4. Everything Else in our Life Revolves Around Them [CHART: Enemy]
 - a) Our Spouse is now our Sympathizer → Taking Sides Against My Enemy
 - b) My Family is Now My Emotional Support → Against My Enemy
 - c) My Money is Weaponized as Ammunition → Against My Enemy
 - d) My Possession Become My Status or My Escape → Against My Enemy
 - e) My Friends are Defined if They Share My Feelings → Against My Enemy
 - f) My Church Now Become My Source of Self-Justification → Against My Enemy
5. The Bible Says to Guard Your Heart—it is the Center of Who You Are,
and Everything you do (Proverbs 4:23 NIV)

C. YOU ARE NOT A VICTIM—YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN

1. Our Faith in God Must Be Solid Enough to Take an Insult...
 - a) To Be Able to Suffer Wrong against us (v.29-30)
2. Jesus is Teaching us a positive character ethic of Good...
—not a negative ethic of a victimhood.
 - a) Some Think Playing the Victim Role is a Get Out of Jail Free Card...
 - b) "Nothing Can Be My Fault — Because Everything is Their Fault"
 - c) Psychologists now call This: **T.I.V. – Tendency for Interpersonal Victimhood.**

“an ongoing feeling that the self is a victim, which is generalized across many kinds of relationships. As a result, victimization becomes a central part of the individual's identity.” (Scientific American, 6/2020)

d) Interpersonal victimhood consists of 4 main dimensions:

- (1) constantly seeking recognition for one's victimhood,
- (2) moral elitism,
- (3) lack of empathy for the pain and suffering of others,
- (4) frequently ruminating about past victimization.

“The higher the participants Victimhood Quotient, the more they experienced negative emotions and felt entitled to behave immorally. The experience of negative emotions predicted behavioral revenge.”

3. **You're Not a Victim—You're a Christian**
Who Lives By Faith and Love—Not By Vengeance & Anger
4. **The Battle Belongs to the Lord—So Vengeance is His - Not Ours**
(Romans 12:17–21)

D. THE LAW OF REAPING AND SOWING

1. **Jesus also explains a universal principle of life—Reaping and Sowing**
 - a) Think of This in Terms of Our General Disposition...
 - b) How Our General ATTITUDE and ACTIONS Reflect Back on Us.
2. **He Gives Five Areas This Applies in our Life:**
 - (1) Mercy will lead to mercy (Luke 6:36).
 - (2) Judgment will lead to judgment (v. 37a).
 - (3) Condemnation will lead to condemnation (v. 37b).
 - (4) Forgiving will lead to being forgiven (v. 37c).
 - (5) Giving will lead to receiving (v. 38).

I know that **“Judge not and you shall not be judged”** (v.37a) is the favorite Bible verse of those who don't even believe in the Bible...

But Quoting it out of context does not change the truth...
We will all stand before the judgement seat of God.

“Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment” (John 7:24).

3. **Even in a Dark World—we are called to be a light...**
Even in a Lost World—we're called to do what is right (Galatians 6:7–10)

E. CALLED TO A HIGHER CALLING...

1. **We Are Called to a Higher Calling (Luke 6:32–34)**
2. **To be merciful, just as your Father in Heaven also is merciful.**
3. **And We Will Receive our Reward From Him (v.35-36)**

CONCLUSION:

1. **Jesus has given us His Moral Principles....**
2. **He Has Called Us to a Higher Calling...**
3. **He Has Offered Us an Abundant Life...**
 - a blessed life...
 - That can even withstand the Storms of Life