

“Jesus is Better: The Joy of Critical Thinking” (Part 1)
Luke 6:20-26

*“There is a kind of poverty, hunger, weeping, and being hated and reviled, that is a result of **being blessed** by Jesus. There is also a kind of wealth, fullness, laughter, and acceptance, that is **a judgment** from God.”*

*“Being satisfied, being content, or desiring this world **more** than you desire Christ, is a judgment from God. If Jesus is better, then to not see that is truly spiritual blindness.”*

- Dissecting the Text:
 - **Blessed:** To receive grace; to experience gain; to be fortunate; to be happy; to have reason to celebrate; to receive abundance; to receive favor from God; to be well off; or to be satisfied.
 - **Woe:** To experience grief; to experience affliction; to be wretched; to be in danger or in trouble; to be under judgment; to be under God’s wrath.
 - Both the **blessings** and the **woes** are connected with the worth of Jesus or lack thereof; *“On account of the Son of Man!”*
 - **Naturally** we do not associate blessings with the description of Luke 6:20-22 and we **naturally** associate blessings with the description of Luke 6:23-26.
 - “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are **folly to him**, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Corinthians 2:14)
 - **Naturally** we want temporal reward and have little to no interest in eternal realities; *“your reward is great in heaven”* or *“you have received your consolation or reward”*.
 - “He considered the reproach of Christ **greater wealth** than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to **the reward**.” (Hebrews 11:26)
 - Look at the response to the realities of Luke 6:20-23 — *“Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy...”*
 - *“For in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part.”* (2 Corinthians 8:2)
 - The consequence of living for now; this world or temporal satisfaction....
 - No reward for anything done in this life, an eternal hungering; and an eternal mourning and weeping. These are loving warnings of the danger of not valuing Christ above everything else (cf. Matthew 13:49-50; Matthew 25:41,46; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9).

Worship: Glorious Christ (Living He Loved Me) — Casting Crowns

Tis So Sweet — Various Artists

His Mercy is More — Matt Boswell

Closing Song: From Everlasting (Psalm 90) — Sovereign Grace Music

Service Times: Sundays: Prayer 9:45a/Church 10:30a; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30p/Men 6:30p & 7p; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20p/Church 7p

Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of February we are collecting monetary donations for the Lambs. They are a missionary family living and serving in Papua New Guinea, working to translate the Bible into the multiple different languages of that country. For more information about the Lambs and their work in Papua New Guinea, please see the board at the back of the sanctuary. There is a container on the back table to collect your monetary donations. You can also give on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for the Lambs. ***TODAY is the last day we are collecting monetary donations for the Lambs!***

★**FELLOWSHIP LUNCH:** We are having a Fellowship Lunch *TODAY* immediately following the worship service. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the meal and the fellowship with us!

★**CHURCH NIGHT OF PRAYER:** We are having our Church Night of Prayer *TONIGHT* from 5:30-7pm. If you would like to participate in this, we have a sign-up list on the table in the entryway. We have that hour and a half broken up into 15 minute increments, you are welcome to sign up for as many time slots as you would like to. During this prayer time we will be praying for specific prayer requests within the church body.

★**CLEANING MINISTRY MEETING:** If you currently serve in or are interested in serving in the Cleaning Ministry, please mark your calendars and plan on attending a short ministry meeting on Sunday, March 17th, immediately following the worship service.

★**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We are looking for volunteers to join the Slides Ministry. If you are interested in serving on this ministry or if you have questions about serving in this ministry, please see Shanelle McElfresh!

★**COMMUNION:** We will be partaking of and celebrating Communion together as a church body *NEXT* Sunday, March 3rd.

★**LEGACY PRACTICUM:** *NEW COURSE:* Old Testament Synthesis (Survey) will be starting on Monday, March 11th – April 29th, this is an Eight Week Course with 24 Lecture Hours. Old Testament Synthesis: An Old Testament survey Bible study is a type of Bible study that covers the main themes, events, and characters of the Old Testament, which consists of the first 39 books of the Bible. It is a way of getting an overview of the historical and theological background of the Old Testament, as well as its connection to the New Testament and the Christian faith. An Old Testament survey Bible study can help you understand the context and purpose of each book, as well as the major teachings and prophecies that are relevant for today. If interested let Elder Richard know so we can prepare a Syllabus.