

The Sermon on the Plain

Luke 6:20-49

Faithful and unfaithful disciples (20-26)

Four blessings (20-23) Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

Four woes (24-26) But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

Dealing with Enemies (27-35)

Two sets of four enemy love sayings (27-30) But I say to you who hear:

- love your enemies
- do good to those who hate you
- bless those who curse you
- pray for those who abuse you
- to one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also
- and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either
- give to everyone who begs from you
- and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back

A key principle (31) And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

Some provocative questions (32-34)

- If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.
- And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.
- And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.

An exhortation (35) But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return

The result of obedience (35) and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

Correcting others (37-45)

Four mercy sayings (37-38a)

- Judge not, and you will not be judged
- condemn not, and you will not be condemned
- forgive, and you will be forgiven
- give, and it will be given to you.

Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap.

A key principle (38b) For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.

Some provocative questions (39-42) He also told them a parable: Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.

Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye?

An exhortation (42) You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye

The result of obedience (42) and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

Faithful and unfaithful disciples (43-49)

Two kinds of people (43-45) For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Two kinds of builders (46-49) Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.