

Sermon #13: The Life that Will be Rewarded

04/25/21

BREAKING THE ICE

- What challenged or impacted you most about this week's message?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage (Luke 6:20-36)

1. How do these first 7 verses (20-26) confront the typical attitudes we have as humans?
2. What is difficult for you to accept about these beatitudes (or principles of blessing) that Jesus proclaims? Why?
3. Is it true to say that simply being poor, hungry, weeping, or hated guarantees these blessings that Jesus offers? Why or why not?
4. Why would Jesus warn us about a person who is rich, satisfied, full of laughter and fully accepted *in this world*?
5. How do you see yourself seeking after these temporal blessings in your life?
6. In verses 27-31, what challenges you the most about how Jesus calls us to treat our enemies?
7. How does our willingness to love our enemies like Jesus' commanded reveal which set of attitudes we have embrace from vs 20-27?
8. In verses 32-34, what does Jesus say about the "credit" or "benefit" we receive when we only love those who love us?
9. In verse 35, what does Jesus promise us when we do love our enemies? How is this similar to what Jesus promised in vs 23?
10. What does the fact that Jesus promised rewards for our obedience teach us about God?
11. According to the end of vs 35 & vs 36, how does loving our enemies make us like God?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

In reality, Jesus was the richest man on earth. He owns the whole universe! He could have had any lifestyle He desired, experienced every satisfaction He desired, and even done all kinds of miracles and deeds to get everyone to like & approve of Him. Yet, He didn't. He chose to live like He was poor, hungry, sorrowful and rejected in this world so that you & I could one day live in the richness, satisfaction, joy and acceptance of God's presence. Jesus knew the infinite pleasures and rewards of heaven far outweighed any we could receive on earth. That's why He never gave in to the temptations of earth. They pale in comparison. Yet, Jesus accepted the "woes" that we deserved so we could receive the blessings He earned.

- How does Jesus' love for you when you were His enemy move you to love your enemies as you have been loved by Jesus?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. Which of the attitudes described in vs 20-26 is the most difficult for you to embrace? Why?
2. What earthly reward are you seeking or protecting by disobeying Jesus' command to love an "enemy" you have in your life right now?
3. What courageous step could you take this week in your attitude of this world or actions toward enemies that would pursue God's greater reward?
4. What impact might our church have in Austin if we all embraced what Jesus taught?

PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER

"This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God's will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today's lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.