THE BEATITUDES

Luke 6:17–26

Key Verse: 6:

1. What groups of people are with Jesus, and where are they (17)? Why have such great numbers come (18b)? What is happening (18b)? Why were they all trying to touch him (19)? How does this contrast with the Pharisees’ behavior thus far? What stands out about Jesus in these verses?
2. In the midst of healing, what does Jesus do, and why (20a)? What is the basic structure of this opening to his sermon (20–26)? What words does he repeat, and what contrasts does he make? Can you find any progression? Who is behind all these outcomes? What does it mean to be “blessed”?
3. Read verse 20b. Who are the “poor,” and why do they have the blessing of the kingdom of God? Read verse 21. What does it mean to be “hungry” and to “weep,” and what is promised these people? What does Jesus mean that they “shall be satisfied” and “laugh”? How should verses 20–21 impact our lives?
4. Read verse 22. Think about what each of these experiences mean and why they happen. What does Jesus command, and why (23)?
5. Read verses 24–26. What does the word “woe” mean? What does Jesus say will happen to these people, and what does he mean (25)? What else does he say, and why (26)? What lessons does he want us to learn through these “woes”?