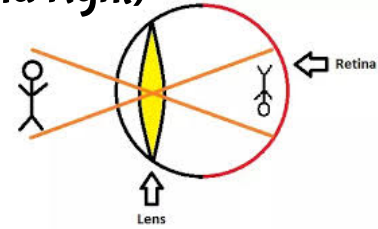


When do we see things backwards?

When do we see things backwards (left and right)
or upside down?



Sometimes we see life upside-down and backwards
and we don't even know it!

Pray: God, open the eyes of our hearts to see more clearly

1

Upside Down and Backwards

Luke 6:17-26

bib.ly/Lk6.NIV
tiny.cc/cmchandouts



2

Some key things that came before...

- **Jesus' first sermon (Luke 4)**

“Unrolling the scroll, Jesus found the place where it is written:

‘The **Spirit of the Lord** is on me,

because he has anointed me

to proclaim **good news to the poor.**

He has sent me to proclaim **freedom for the prisoners**

and **recovery of sight for the blind,**

to **set the oppressed free,**

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.’...

Then He said, ‘Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.’”

3

Some key things that came before...

- **Jesus' first sermon (Luke 4)**

- **Jesus chose 12 special followers (Luke 6)**

- After a night full of prayer

- Out of many “disciples” He chose 12 “apostles”

- Then He began to show and to tell them what His Kingdom is like

4

Luke 6:17-19

He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

Tyre and Sidon = cities in a non-Jewish area to the north

5

Luke 6:20-23

Looking at his disciples, he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

“Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

6

Luke 6:24-26

“But woe to you who are rich,
 for you have already received your comfort.
 Woe to you who are well fed now,
 for you will go hungry.
 Woe to you who laugh now,
 for you will mourn and weep.
 Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
 for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

7

#1 Luke 6:17-19

#2 He went down with **them** and stood on a level place. **#3**
 A **large crowd of his disciples** was there and **a great number**
 of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from
 the coastal region around **Tyre and Sidon**, who had come
 to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those
 troubled by impure spirits were cured, and the people all
 tried to touch him, because **power was coming from him**
 and **healing them all.**

Tyre and Sidon = cities in a non-Jewish area to the northwest

8

Luke 6:17-26

17-19: Jesus taught and healed a great crowd from all over

- It was a time for miracles
 - Seemingly not continuous miraculous healings
 - This was a special time for it
 - Jesus blessed abundantly
 - “Peace” for body, relationships, and soul
 - Personal connections (touch him) for miracles
 - Must have been chaotic!
 - Imagine: The joy, dancing, and laughter!
- And teaching

20-21:

22-23:

24-26:

9

Luke 6:20-21

Looking at his disciples, he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

**Blessed = those who are in the loving attention of God
Whether or not it seems like it today
God’s good cannot fail to prevail for them!**

10

“On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare
 a feast of rich food for all peoples,
 a banquet of aged wine—

the best of meats and the finest of wines.

On this mountain he will destroy
 the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
 the sheet that covers all nations;
 he will swallow up death forever.”

Isaiah 25:6-8

Feast: Metaphor for joy and blessing and abundance
Blessed are you who hunger, for you will be satisfied

11

Luke 6:17-26

17-19: Jesus taught and healed a great crowd from all over

20-21: **Jesus taught: Who is in the favor of God? (part 1)**

- Favor: God’s loving and action-filled attention
- Those in Christ who know their deep need for God’s blessing
 - No dichotomy between physical and non-physical poverty, hunger or grief
 - Includes every lack: money, food, relationships, health, psychology, spiritual, ...
- The Kingdom of God is far more blessing

22-23: than anything someone might lack, and it is yours!

24-26: • Though not experiencing it all yet...

12

Luke 6:22-23

Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
 and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.

“Rejoice in that day and leap for joy,
 because great is your reward in heaven.
 For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

13

Luke 6:17-26

17-19: Jesus taught and healed a great crowd from all over

20-21: Jesus taught: Who is in the favor of God? (part 1)

22-23: Jesus taught: Who is in the favor of God? (part 2)

- Those who experience rejection **because of** their connection with Jesus → **great reward** in heaven
 - Special status (like the prophets)
 - “Leap for joy!” → not merely “comfort”
 - Can be misapplied → martyr complex
 - Certainly this fit Jesus, and Paul, and Peter, and so many others in the history of Christianity

14

Luke 6:24-26

“But **woe** to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

Woe to you who are well fed now,
for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.

Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
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15

Luke 6:17-26

17-19: Jesus taught and healed a great crowd from all over

20-21: Jesus taught: Who is in the favor of God? (part 1)

22-23: Jesus taught: Who is in the favor of God? (part 2)

24-26: Jesus taught: Woe to the “rich”

- Not in God’s loving and action-filled attention
- Who is the audience?
 - No change, so maybe “wealthy” disciples and seekers
- “Woe!” is not judgment → an invitation to change
- Exactly the opposite of the blessings
- This message is part of the reason for opposition
 - Particularly for religious people who find their identity in their visible power, wealth, health, and success

16

Luke 6:17-26

17-19: Jesus taught and healed a great crowd from all over

20-21: Jesus taught: Who is in the favor of God? (part 1)

22-23: Jesus taught: Who is in the favor of God? (part 2)

24-26: **Jesus taught: Woe to the “rich”**

- Problem is not wealth now but...
 - Gathering wealth **unjustly**: Zacchaeus
 - Keeping wealth **ungenerously**: rich man (& Lazarus)
 - Laughter: **callousness** to the trouble of others
 - Especially when it is in our power to act
 - **Finding our “blessedness”** in our wealth, comfort, laughter, and approval **in the present age**
 - Will miss out in the glorious age of God!

17

Luke 6:17-26

17-19: Jesus taught and healed a great crowd from all over

20-21: Jesus taught: Blessed are the poor

22-23: → In the loving and action-filled attention of God

24-26: Jesus taught: Woe to the rich

→ Not in the loving and action-filled attention of God

18

The Big Idea

**Those in Christ
who find their blessing in God
experience present and future joy
in His overwhelmingly generous hand**

19

Notes

- Blessedness is for those who are “in Christ”
 - Not a statement about every person who has trouble
 - Not a glorification of trouble or lack (the troubles will go away in the Kingdom of God)
- Spiritual & practical help: a divine combination!
 - What Jesus did: teaching & miracles for human needs
 - A great model for church ministry!
 - Whether practical help is miraculous or not...
 - Would likely lead to the same three groups in the church
 - Both disciples and people who initially come because of the good they see and experience

20

The Big Idea

**Those in Christ
who find their blessing in God
experience present and future joy
in His overwhelmingly generous hand**

21

Application

- Where you **lack**...find your blessedness in Jesus
 - Believe Jesus: This is His claim about the world
 - Believe **in** Jesus: It happens in the person and work of Jesus
 - **He really meant what He said**
 - **Blessed** are God's people who are poor (in any way), hungry, weeping, or experiencing hardship in Jesus
 - In a way that goes far beyond earthly wealth
eternal weight of glory that far outweighs all temporary wealth
 - Such joy I lose daily because I think my **small lack** prevents my experiencing God's joy → actually an opportunity for joy!

22

Gospel Thinking

- Our greatest poverty is being separated from God because of our own sin
 - There is nothing I could ever do to fix that problem!
- God gave His wealth (Jesus) to bless His enemies (us)
 - So I would stop being the enemy of God
 - So I would become a cherished child of God!
- Since He eagerly paid the highest price for my greatest lack, why in the world would He hold back anything else?
- So if you lack...find your blessedness in Jesus!
 - Jesus: “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink.”

23

Application

- Where you **lack**...find your blessedness in Jesus
 - Blessings now
 - Spirit and worship and hearing His Word
 - Every gift we have received: life, relationships, food, shelter, ...
 - Every lack is a reminder of our limitless riches in Christ!

“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.” 2 Corinthians 4:16-17
 - and **blessings** in the coming Kingdom of God
 - Dancing and laughter
 - Uncontainable joy in the abundant love of God!

24

Application

- Where you **lack**...find your blessedness in Jesus
- Where you **have**...find your blessedness in Jesus

– Jesus said,

“Watch out! Be on your guard
against all kinds of **greed**;
life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

Luke 12:15

25

A great danger of earthly blessings
(money, things, relationships,
physical health and ability,
emotional strength, success, ...)

- Thinking my blessedness
is in earthly blessings
- Distraction from being rich toward God
- Earthly blessings will always
disappoint & go away → angst

Be on your guard!



26

Application

- Where you **lack**...find your blessedness in Jesus
- Where you **have**...find your blessedness in Jesus
 - Jesus said,
 - “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of **greed**;
life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

Luke 12:15

27

Application

- Where you **lack**...find your blessedness in Jesus
- Where you **have**...find your blessedness in Jesus
- Where you **have**...bless others
 - Use your blessings (physical, spiritual, emotional, relational) to bless others
 - Freely you received, now freely give in joy!
 - What Jesus did (miracles) and called His disciples to do
 - What Zacchaeus did and what the rich man did not do
 - What the early church did, and Christ-like churches still do
 - As Jesus did, we should have people come who are attracted to the just, merciful, life-giving, and generous presence of Christian community

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Application

- Where you **lack**...find your blessedness in Jesus
- Where you **have**...find your blessedness in Jesus
- Where you **have**...**ble**ss others
 - What Jesus did miraculously (feeding, healing) was a first step (down payment) of complete fulfillment to come in His Kingdom
 - The church should be a community and an instrument for increasing holiness, justice, love, and mercy
 - A down payment & initial taste of what is coming!
 - To say a blessing to the poor and then not do anything to help them is offensive to Jesus!

29

A Gospel-centered view of "bringing justice to the nations" (Isaiah 42:1)

Holy God	Entirely good = h oly, j ust, l oving, and m erciful	God's holistic plan for us too!
Sinful people	A mixture of good (HJLM) and not good. → every person and every organization	Christians and the Church must constantly repent and reform
Jesus' victorious death	Took the effects of sin on Himself (poverty), to give us His riches	Point everyone to Jesus Love others as Jesus loved
Blessing by faith in Jesus alone	We enter the goodness of God by faith in Christ alone We don't need human goodness to have the full blessing and goodness of God Nothing and no one can separate people in Christ from the love of God	Offer this to others too
To be like Jesus	By the power of the Spirit, bring good (HJLM) to all people in head, heart, and hands For every individual & in every organization/policy/practice we can touch (salty salt)	
Until Jesus comes again	The complete expression of God's goodness only comes when He returns	Keep pointing ourselves & others to this one true Hope!

30

Application

Blessed are the poor.

Woe to the rich.

- Where you **lack**...find your blessedness in Jesus
- Where you **have**...find your blessedness in Jesus
- Where you **have**...bless others

31

The Big Idea

**Those in Christ
who find their blessing in God
experience present and future joy
in His overwhelmingly generous hand**

**Woe to those who find their "blessedness" anywhere else!
→ It is a good thing to fling away lesser gods while blessing**

**Invitation to be in God's loving and action-filled attention
→ Rejoice in Christ, both now and forever**

**Invitation to be like God: loving and action-filled attention
→ Across differences and in the midst of brokenness**

32