# Bible Study 62

### January 11th, 2023

 The Gospel of Luke (continued)

In Chapter 6 of the Gospel of Luke there is an extensive passage starting at verse 17 which we call: “The Sermon on the Plain.” It directly corresponds with the “Sermon on the Mount” in Matthew’s Gospel. The sermon begins with ‘The Beatitudes’.

So, what are the Beatitudes? Well, they are a set of ideals set out by Jesus for his disciples and followers. Today we could think of it as a Party or Church Manifesto. If lived, what a wonderful world we would all be living in!

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

Right from the start Jesus has a bias for the poor. As a church it is our starting point.

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

People hunger for more than just food. There is a hunger of the spirit, that is hard to fill in many lives. People need God and do not know it. As a church we have to meet that need. Depression, alcoholism, drugs, and so many mental problems are symptomatic of a spiritual dynamic that is absent.

***“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.”***

Grief they say is the other side of the coin from love. Our mission is to bring happiness. It is the message and mission of the Gospel. That is what we mean by ‘the Good news.’

***“Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you, and insult you, and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of man.”***

This seems to be on the rise in our world. Christians for so many have become the enemy. We are now the minority, yet we have to take that hate and replace it with love.

It is hard to know what to make of the Beatitudes as a whole. Imagine if we all took the Bill of Rights and the Constitution of the United States literally. What a changed country we would all live in. Imagine that we took the words of the Pledge of Allegiance and were true to it : “ONE NATION UNDER GOD WITH **Liberty and Justice for all**.” It is a wonderful pledge and we should all strive to make it happen. So too with the Beatitudes. They are a code to live by.

## Read Chapters 6 & 7