

An Outline of the Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6.20-49)

INTRODUCTION

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

BEATITUDES AND WOES

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

Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

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

Blessed are you when people hate you, and
when they exclude you,
revile you, and
defame you on account of the Son of Man.
Rejoice in that day and leap for joy,
for surely your reward is great in heaven;
for that is what their ancestors did to the
prophets

But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

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

Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for that is what their ancestors did to the
false prophets.

SCOPE OF DISCIPLESHIP PRACTICE

But I say to you that listen,

[as chiasm]

A: Love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you,
bless those who curse you,
pray for those who abuse you.

[examples of love, etc. to one's opponents]

B: If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also;
and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.

Give to everyone who begs from you;
and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again.

C: Do to others as you would have them do to you.

[inclusion of opponents in scope of love]

B: "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?
For even sinners love those who love them.

If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you?
For even sinners do the same.

If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you?
Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

A: But love your enemies,
do good, and
lend [= "bless"], expecting nothing in return.

Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

[= "pray for those who abuse you"]

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged;
do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.

Forgive, and you will be forgiven;

Give, and it will be given to you.

A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap;
for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

"PARABLES"

He also told them a parable [about seeing]:

"Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit?"

A disciple is not above the teacher,
but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher.

Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye,
but do not notice the log in your own eye?

Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,'
when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye?

You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye,
and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.

[parables about fruitfulness]

"No good tree bears bad fruit,
nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit;
for each tree is known by its own fruit.
Figs are not gathered from thorns,
nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush.

The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good,
and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil;
for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.

[link between worship/obedience and practice]

Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I tell you?"

Concluding simile

I will show you what someone is like who comes to me,
hears my words,
and acts on them.

That one is like a man building a house,
who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock;
when a flood arose,
the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built.

But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house
on the ground without a foundation.

When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house.