

**Luke 6:20** And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

**Luke 6:21** “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

**Luke 6:22** “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man!

**Luke 6:23** Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

**Luke 6:24** “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

**Luke 6:25** “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. “Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

**Luke 6:26** “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

**Luke 6:20** And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours **is the kingdom of God.**

**Matt. 5:3** Blessed are the poor in spirit, for \*theirs\* **is the kingdom of the heavens.**

According to Matt.5:3 “Poor in spirit: indicates that the realization and experience of a saint in the church life starts from his spirit. Once he truly obtains the revelation in his spirit, he sees

- (a) the loveliness of the Savior,
- (b) the preciousness of salvation and
- (c) all inclusive Christ,

then he attains the preliminary restoration. This restoration enables him to realize his emptiness and the unsearchable richness of Christ.

Because of the realization of his self-emptiness, a man “poor in spirit” does not boldly 1. have opinions concerning divine things, 2. does not dare to depend on self-zealousness, 3. does not search for position in the church life, 4. does not boast about any of his ability and specialty. At this moment, he desires Christ to be the pre-eminent one in his living.

**Luke 6:20** “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

- The poor refers to poor in spirit.

**Isaiah 66:2** All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.

- Being poor can cause me to become more humble and to seek.
- The poor can come to the Lord to seek him.
- The main thing is that the Lord will give everything, that is the kingdom of God, to the poor, not like man does.
- In other words, the kingdom is destined for the poor.
- Practice: I always feel that being “poor” will push me to come to the Lord. The more I pursue, the more I should feel poor because the abundance of the kingdom of God is limitless.

**Luke 6:21** “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you **shall** be satisfied. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you **shall** laugh.

**Matt. 5:6** Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for **the righteous one**, for they **shall** be satisfied.

**Matt. 5:4** Blessed are those who mourn, for they **shall** be comforted.

Because of the realization of the unsearchable richness of Christ, a man poor in spirit will have a hunger for Christ as his preeminent purpose of living. Our Lord is willing and able to provide what He is, what He has accomplished and what He desires to do to this believer with His leading and power. Therefore, this believer shall be satisfied.

Often, he will weep or mourn due to the understanding of his lowliness and the observation that many Christians including himself live for themselves, ignorantly live a religious life, and serve in zealousness. In his growth in life (relatively and comparatively), he also weeps or mourns because the will and the testimony of God cannot be properly realized and manifested . However, due to his hungrily pursuing of Christ, the all inclusive Christ will supply him and comfort him, and make him joyful.

**Luke 6:22** “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man!

**Luke 6:23** Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, **your reward is great in heaven**; for so **their fathers did to the prophets**.

**Luke 6:26** “Woe to you, **when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.**

**Matt. 16:23** But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. **For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 4:18** as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. **For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.**

**In the church life, we practice to live, including speak, according to the leading and the will of Christ, not to the will of men. Often, because the world does not understand what Christ desires, the people around us may dislike, hate or scorn us. However, during the Lord’s second coming, we will leap for joy because our reward is great in the heavens, and it is eternal.**

Luke 6:23 Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, **your reward is great in heaven**; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

When we suffer persecution, or people mock us because we are Christians or because we believe the Bible, it is easy to feel discouraged. We like to be recognized and appreciated. Even in the church life, we may like to be praised and honored.

However, all our serving, and all our pursuing, are not to gain an earthly reward, earthly recognition or earthly ranking. Our sole aim is to please the Lord. Our reward is the Lord Himself. For example, we may have preached the gospel to ten people. We may have accompanied five people during the week. Are we joyful because of what we have accomplished, or how much time or energy we spent, or are we joyful because the Lord is satisfied. Are we joyful to please the Lord, or to please ourselves?

All our serving and operation produce a joy of having pleased the Lord. The Lord Himself is our only joy and our only reward.

Luke 6:24 “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

To be rich is to be filled, or satisfied, or comforted (consoled) till there is no more room to receive more.

We may be blessed with a rich church life, which is a blessing. We may even have been “hungry” at one time, so the Lord was able to “fill” us. We may have pursued the Bible with companions, we may have accompanied people, we may have served on a team, we may have preached the gospel.

What about now? Am I hungry? Do I have room to be enlarged, to be stretched? For example, do I contact saints today? Do I pray with companions today? Do I attach myself to the servants of God, to receive from them? Do I have room to grow more, to be elevated more?

**Luke 6:24** “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

**Luke 6:25** “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. “Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

**1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 6:17** As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but **on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though **he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.**

**Matt. 6:20a** but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,

**2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 6:10** as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; **as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.**

**The Lord was rich, but because of us He became poor and it was counted as His grace. For us, it is the same. For example, to offer the financial offering is also a grace to us because it stores up our treasures in heaven and also makes many others rich in Christ.**

# Can we be like true prophets ?

Lydia Chen

We often like to say to the people near us that everything is fine, and everything will be fine for them. Of course, these words may mostly comfort people and make them happy.

However, the Bible teaches us to always say something truthful that comes from God and not from ourselves, even if our speaking may sound uncomfortable and harsh to the people around us.

**Luke 6:26** Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.