

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1. A challenge to define Christ's kingdom in terms of the age to come.
2. Shock of Lk 6:17-26. Hearers - social riffraff - follow Jesus & still be social riffraff & now have to suffer for Jesus' sake?!? Need wisdom.

1st: The Contrast Between the Poor and the Rich - v20 & v24

1. Socioeconomic vocab: *poor* & *rich*. The *poor* in OCov were dependent on Lord: pious poor: humility - *blessed are the poor in spirit* [Mat 5:3].
  - i. Lord identifies w/ the poor - Lk 21:1-3; Prv 14:31; 17:5; 19:17.
  - ii. Kg David is among *the poor* - [afflicted]: Ps 40:17; 34:6; 140:12.
  - iii. Ps 72: 12-14 re: Messiah & His kingdom of compassion - Lk 4:18,19
  - iv. Jesus *poor* - Ps 22:1 - vss 1-18 [the cross]; v19-21 [cry for help -> v22 & v31. v24. What deliverance? Resurrection to eternal life.
    - a. What does kingdom poverty look like? Jesus on the cross.
    - b. Ps 22 ends: *He has performed it* [v31 - *It is finished* [Jn 19:30].
2. Who are the *rich*? Believer in Mammon not in Jesus. *Rich*: security in self & present-age - no thot of eternity.
  - i. Lk 12:13-21 - parable of rich fool; *who stores up treasure for himself & is not rich toward God*. The kingdom *poor* are *rich toward God*.
  - ii. Lk 16:19-31 the rich man & Lazarus
  - iii. Kingdom "Reversal" is point of Jesus' sermon.
  - iv. Rich young ruler *went away grieving for he owned much property. It is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven* [Mt 19:22-23].
  - v. Status & security - pride - desensitizes to eternity [1Jn 2:14-17]

## 2nd: The Contrast Between the Kingdom and Temporal Comforts

1. v20b *yours is the Kingdom*. 2 aspects: Rule [already] & Realm [not yet]
  - i. Ruler of the Kingdom = King Jesus - Monarchy. Vicar: HS - Script teaches people of King to recognize & receive gifts: men who minister Word of King wh/ directs us to serve the King.
  - ii. Realm of Kingdom - a territory: the glorified cosmos. This present world is realm of the reign of Satan, sin, & death.
    - a. The body of the disciple - Jesus' "territory"; the local church.

- iii. The *poor* are already citizens of Jesus' kgdm [Phil 3:20a; Hb 4:16] & will enter the realm of Jesus' kingdom when He returns. [Lk 12:32].
2. v24b *you are receiving your comfort in full* - "paid in full"
  - i. *your comfort* - term used of HS: Paraclete, Comforter. Instead of HS, the rich have material possessions.
  - ii. Lk 16:25 contrasting parallel: rich man//Lazarus. *Comfort* of the world [1Jn 2:15] = *vanity* [idolatry - Mt 6:24]

## Applic #1: Beware of the Enticement of Temporal Riches

1. Jim Elliot [martyred in 1956]: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that wh/ he cannot lose." [Mt 6:19-21; Jms 5:1-3; Prv 11:4a].
2. Beware of *the love of money* [1T 6:10a] - what kind of comfort to you seek? The comfort of the kingdom [HS], or the vain comfort of Mammon?
3. Mr. Thorny: [Mat 13:22] *deceitfulness of riches* - offer of vain comfort.
4. C.S.Lewis: play in mud puddle or sail the ocean?

## Applic #2: Be Willing to Become Poor for the Sake of the Kingdom

1. Jms 2:5 Are you *beloved*? Do you *love* Christ? [1C 2:9].
2. I commend your generosity - [1T 6:17-19]. We are *rich* - but I know you hope in God more than in your worldly riches. Press on!
3. Focus: Sons of Most High [Lk 6:35]. Battle strategy. Be willing to be impoverished for sake of K. Hb 10:34-35 - tempted to *shrink back* [v38].
  - i. Is a wave of persecution on the horizon?
  - ii. The beatitudes profile the Sons of Most High. Interpret kingdom poverty, hunger, weeping, & ostracization as part of the battle strategy for kingdom victory won by loving enemies. Opposition will likely include threats to our finances & jobs. Lk 6:20 - AMEN