

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR
HAS COME, WEEK 44

TITLE: THE FLIP SIDE OF THE BEATITUDES

TEXT: LUKE 6:24-26

INTRODUCTION: (1) AS JESUS BEGAN TO PREACH
IN LUKE 6:20, IN WHAT I AM CALLING, HIS
SERMON ON THE LEVEL, HE GAVE HIS DISCIPLES
4 BLESSINGS FOLLOWED BY 4 WOES.

* IN DOING THAT, JESUS WAS DRAWING A
CONTRAST BETWEEN TWO WAYS OF LIFE.

** BLESSINGS THAT COME WITH FIRST KNOWING
HIM AND GODLINESS THAT FOLLOWS.

*** AND WOES THAT COME FROM WORLDLINESS.

**** HOWEVER, WHAT BRINGS BLESSING OR WOE
IS ALMOST EXACTLY OPPOSITE OF WHAT MOST
PEOPLE THINK.

(2) IN OTHER WORDS, HOW CAN YOU TELL THAT GOD IS BLESSING YOU?

* WELL, THE ANSWER THAT JESUS GIVES IS TOTALLY UNEXPECTED. FOR NORMALLY WE THINK OF BLESSINGS AS GOOD HEALTH, LONG LIFE, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, A GOOD JOB, ETC., THAT TEMPORAL THINGS ARE BLESSINGS AND CERTAINLY THESE THINGS ARE TEMPORARY BLESSINGS.

** YET, JESUS TAKES THE THINGS THAT NO ONE WANTS, BEING POOR IN SPIRIT, HUNGERING AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS, WEEPING AND BEING PERSECUTED AND SAYS THESE THINGS ARE BLESSINGS AND THE PEOPLE WHOM HAVE THESE THINGS AND ARE GOING THRU THESE THINGS ARE BLESSED!

*** THUS JESUS HAD THE AUDACITY TO SAY THAT THE THINGS THAT EVERYONE WANTS, MONEY, FOOD, LAUGHTER AND POPULARITY WILL NEVER SATISFY US.

**** AND OBVIOUSLY WE NEED MONEY AND FOOD TO LIVE, BUT HAVING THESE THINGS **DON'T SATISFY.**

(3) JESUS THUS TEACHES HIS DISCIPLES TO PRIZE, TO LONG AFTER WHAT THE WORLD CALLS PITIABLE AND TO BE SUSPECT OF WHAT THE WORLD THINKS IS DESIRABLE.

* THEREFORE THE TEACHINGS OF THE LORD JESUS ARE DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO HUMAN THINKING, TO POPULAR THINKING. **CHRIST'S VALUE SYSTEM AND HIS VALUES ARE OPPOSED TO THE WORLD'S.**

**** FOR OUR LORD'S TEACHINGS SHATTER** POPULAR WORLDVIEWS. THEY CHALLENGE **PEOPLE'S MOTIVES**, TURN THEIR WORLDS UPSIDE DOWN AND STAND THEIR THINKING ON ITS HEAD.

*** IN FACT, JESUS MADE NO ATTEMPT AT POLITICAL CORRECTNESS TO BE POPULAR AND IGNORED CONVENTIONAL WISDOM.

**** AND THE BEATITUDES WHICH WE COVERED OVER THE LAST 4 SUNDAYS ARE A PRIME EXAMPLE OF WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT.

(4) I MEAN FROM CONVENTIONAL THINKING, FROM HUMAN PERSPECTIVE, IT APPEARS FOOLISH TO SAY THAT POVERTY, HUNGER, SORROW AND REJECTION ARE THE PRODUCTS OF BLESSINGS.

* AND THAT RICHES, SATISFACTION, LAUGHTER AND POPULARITY DO NOT BRING HAPPINESS. I MEAN WHO BELIEVES THAT? THE ANSWER, JESUS!

** AND JESUS CHRIST AS GOD INCARNATE AUTHORITATIVELY DEFINES WHO IS BLESSED AND WHO IS CURSED.

*** THEREFORE WHAT JESUS SAID IN LUKE 6 IN HIS SERMON ON THE LEVEL AND THROUGHOUT HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY DEMANDS A PARADIGM SHIFT, HEAVENLY THINKING, HEAVENLY WISDOM, NOT WORLDLY WISDOM.

****** THUS LUKE'S ACCOUNT OF THE BEATITUDES**
REVEALS 4 BLESSINGS BESTOWED ON THE
RIGHTEOUS AND 4 WOE PRONOUNCED ON THE
WICKED.

(5) HENCE, I'VE TITLED OUR STUDY IN LUKE
TODAY, **"THE FLIP SIDE OF THE BEATITUDES."**

* AND THERE ARE 4 WOES THAT WE WILL LOOK
AT TODAY IN CONTRAST TO THE 4 BLESSINGS OR
BEATITUDES.

** IT IS TO SAY THAT IN EACH CASE THE
BEATITUDES AND THE WOE FORM A PAIR, WE
HAVE CORRESPONDING OR CORRELATIVE (CORE-
REL-A-TIVE) PAIRS.

*** FOR EXAMPLE, BEATITUDE NO. 1, BLESSED
ARE THE POOR; CURSE NO. 1, CURSED ARE THE
RICH. THE FIRST CURSE CORRESPONDS TO THE
FIRST BEATITUDE.

**** BEATITUDE NO. 2, BLESSED ARE YOU WHO HUNGER NOW; WOE NO. 2, TO YOU WHO ARE WELL FED NOW.

(6) BEATITUDE NO. 3, BLESSED ARE YOU THAT WEEP NOW CORRESPONDS TO THE 3RD CURSE, WOE TO YOU WHO LAUGH NOW.

* AND THEN NO. 4, THE LAST CONTRASTS, THE LAST PARALLEL, BLESSED ARE YOU WHO ARE PERSECUTED; AND CURSE NO. 4, CURSED ARE YOU WHEN ALL MEN SPEAK WELL OF YOU.

* NOW DO YOU SEE HOW THEY LINE UP IN CONTRASTS, AS PARALLELS, AS PAIRS?

** SO THE BLESSED LIFE HAS A COUNTERPART TO THE WOEFUL LIFE.

*** AND WHEREAS THE WORLD SAYS THE POOR MAN, POOR IN SPIRIT IS TO BE PITIED AND THE RICH TO BE ENVIED, JESUS SAID THE POOR ARE BLESSED AND THE RICH HAVE WOE. (COUNTER CULTURAL, REVOLUTIONARY AND RADICAL TEACHING BY JESUS.)

**** WITH THAT SAID, OUR OUTLINE FOR THE FLIP SIDE OF THE BEATITUDES CONSISTS OF 4 WOES. WOE #1, V. 24; WOE #2, V. 25A; WOE #3, V. 25B; AND WOE #4, V. 26. AND THAT IS OUR OUTLINE FOR TODAY.

(7) AND WITH THAT OUTLINE BEFORE US AS A GUIDE, LOOK AT WOE #1 PLEASE IN V. 24.

I. WOE #1, (READ V. 24)

A. NOW THE FIRST WORD IN V. 24, THE CONJUNCTION BUT, INDICATES THAT THE WOES PRONOUNCED BY JESUS ARE IN DIRECT CONTRAST TO THE BLESSINGS GRANTED TO HIS DISCIPLES.

* IT WOULD BE LIKE STARTING V. 24 BY SAYING **"ON THE OTHER HAND," OR "RATHER," OR "BESIDES" OR "MOREOVER."**

** **THE CONJUNCTION "BUT" CONVEYS A SHARP CHANGED, A SHARP CONTRAST, THE FLIP SIDE OF WHAT HAS JUST BEEN SAID.**

***** NOW THE 2'D WORD IN V. 24 IS WOE, WHICH**
LIT. MEANS ALAS HERE. AND THIS GREEK WORD
IS USED 47 TIMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

**** AND THE IDEA COMMUNICATED HERE IS:
HOW TERRIBLE, IT GIVES US A MOURNING GRIEF
SOUND, A DEEP MOAN, A SIGH, AN EXPRESSION
OF PITY FOR THOSE WHO STAND IN DIVINE
JUDGMENT.

1. WOE REFERS TO THOSE IN THE WORST, MOST
UNFAVORABLE CONDITION, WHO EXPERIENCE
THE CALAMITY, DISASTER AND DAMNATION
RESERVED FOR THE WICKED.

* SO WOE IS A WORD FOR LAMENTATION,
EXPRESSING REGRET AND EVEN SORROW FOR
THE ONE WHOM THE WOE IS PRONOUNCED
UPON. I PITY YOU! IT'S AN EXPRESSION OF
PITY FOR THOSE WHO STAND UNDER DIVINE
JUDGMENT.

** AND THE FIRST WOE BY JESUS IS PRONOUNCED UPON THE RICH.

*** AND ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MANY WARNINGS TO THE RICH IN THE BIBLE, THE WORD RICH HERE IS IN CONTRAST TO THE POOR, LIT. TO THE POOR IN SPIRIT, CORRESPONDING TO MATTHEW 5:3 (QUOTE IT).

**** AND POOR IN SPIRIT IS TALKING ABOUT THE CONDITION OF THE SPIRIT, NOT OF THE WALLET. IT IS TO BE DEPENDENT, IT IS TO SEE OUR NEED THAT WE ARE HOPELESS, IT IS THE ANTITHESIS OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

2. THUS ONE WHO WAS RICH WAS CHARACTERIZED BY WHAT KIND OF SPIRIT? SELF-SUFFICIENCY, TO BE ARROGANT, TO NOT SEE NEED BECAUSE YOUR MONEY CAN SUPPLY ALL YOUR NEEDS AND MANY WANTS.

* BELOVED, A RICH PERSON HERE IS NOT DEPENDENT, BUT INDEPENDENT, HAVING AN ATTITUDE, A SENSE OF SECURITY. THE ATTITUDE OF THE RICH IS CONVEYED BY, I HAVE NO NEED.

** AND THE CARRY OVER, SINCE I HAVE NO **NEEDS, I DON'T NEED JESUS, HE'S A CRUTCH** FOR THE POOR, I WILL BUILD BIGGER BARNS.

*** I NEED NO ONE OR NO THING. THE ATTITUDE OF SUFFICIENCY THAT LACK NEEDS.

**** **HOWEVER, THEY DON'T SEE THEIR** SPIRITUAL NEED, THEY DO NOT SEE THEIR SOUL'S NEED AND DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR DEPENDENCE ON GOD.

(6) NOW BIBLICALLY GOD MADE JOB RICH IN THE BEGINNING AND END, ABRAHAM WAS RICH, DAVID AND SOLOMON WERE RICH. AND NOT ALL PEOPLE THAT ARE RICH ARE SELF-SUFFICIENT, BUT MANY ARE, AND WOE TO THEM FOR IN THEIR SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-**SUFFICIENCY, IF THEY DON'T SEE** THEIR NEED OF CHRIST, THEY WILL BE DAMNED TO A CHRISTLESS HELL.

* FOR THE CURSE PRONOUNCED ON THEM AT THE END OF V. 24 IS THAT THEY ARE RECEIVING THEIR COMFORT IN FULL IN THIS LIFE.

** WHAT AWAITS THEM IN ETERNITY IS THE COMFORTING CEASELESS TORMENT OF HELL, QUOTE LUKE 16:22-25, AND AN ILLUSTRATION OF THIS.

*** AND BELOVED, THERE WOULD BE NO COMFORT FOR THE RICH MAN IN HELL IN LUKE 16.

**** LET ME EXPAND ON THE MEANING OF THIS LAST PHRASE AT THE END OF LUKE 6:24 IN OUR TEXT.

(7) THE PHRASE, YOU ARE RECEIVING YOUR COMFORT IN FULL LIT. MEANS THEY HAVE RECEIVED THEIR CONSOLATION AND THE VERB RECEIVING IS ONE THAT WAS OFTEN USED IN **RECEIPTS WITH A MEANING, "PAID IN FULL."**

* IT MEANS RECEIVED PAYMENT IN FULL, THEY OBTAINED WHAT THEY WERE AFTER, THAT IS THEIR ONE AND ONLY CONSOLATION OR COMFORT.

** HOWEVER, FOR THEIR ETERNAL FUTURE THEY HAVE NOTHING BUT THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT THEY HAVE NOW, THEY HAVE NOTHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO, THEIR BEST LIFE TRULY IS NOW.

*** SO THEIR COMFORT IS THEIR WEALTH, THEIR FULL PAYMENT IS THEIR WEALTH, BUT NO HEAVEN FOLLOWS, ONLY HELL BEING SHORT SIGHTED. THE SELF-SUFFICIENT HOLD AN EMPTY BAG, A BAG WITH A HOLE IN IT CONCERNING ETERNITY.

**** SO THE SELF-SUFFICIENT RICH, WHO CHOOSE PRESENT COMFORT OVER JESUS CHRIST, HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED THEIR COMFORT.

(8) HENCE, THOSE WHO TRY TO FIND FULFILLMENT THROUGH WEALTH WILL FIND THAT WEALTH IS THE ONLY REWARD THEY WILL EVER GET AND THAT IT DOES NOT LAST.

* WEALTH AND RICHES ARE NOT WRONG, BUT RELYING ON THEM FOR HAPPINESS IS.

** WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE HEART HERE, THE PURSUIT OF RICHES AS AN END IS WRONG. WHOM OR WHAT IS OUR FIRST LOVE?

*** AND I THANK THE LORD FOR BELIEVERS WHO HAVE WEALTH AND USE IT FOR THE CHURCH AND **CHRIST'S KINGDOM. WHAT A BLESSING.** HOWEVER, FOR THOSE WHO TRUST IN UNCERTAIN RICHES RATHER THAN CHRIST, THEIR BEST LIFE IS NOW, FOR THERE WILL BE NO COMFORT FOR ETERNITY.

*** AND ONE PASSAGE BEFORE I MOVE ON TO WOE #2, AND IT IS I TIMOTHY 6. AND NORMALLY WE LOOK AT I TIMOTHY 6:6-11, WHICH IS GREAT. (QUOTE IT)

**** **NOW THAT IS A GREAT TEXT. BUT LET'S** READ THE LAST PORTION ON THE SCREEN FOUND IN I TIMOTHY 6:17-19.

I TIMOTHY 6:17 - INSTRUCT THOSE WHO ARE RICH IN THIS PRESENT WORLD NOT TO BE CONCEITED OR TO FIX THEIR HOPE ON THE UNCERTAINTY OF RICHES, BUT ON GOD, WHO RICHLY SUPPLIES US WITH ALL THINGS TO ENJOY.

V. 18 - INSTRUCT THEM TO DO GOOD, TO BE RICH IN GOOD WORKS, TO BE GENEROUS AND READY TO SHARE,

V. 19 - STORING UP FOR THEMSELVES THE TREASURE OF A GOOD FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE, SO THAT THEY MAY TAKE HOLD OF THAT WHICH IS LIFE INDEED.

(9) AND BOTTOM LINE, WE ARE TO LAY UP TREASURE IN HEAVEN, QUOTE MATTHEW 6:19-21.

* AND THE KEY HERE FOR THE RICH AND POOR IS THE HEART, WHAT DO WE LABOR FOR? WHAT DO WE LIVE FOR? QUOTE MATTHEW 6:24.

** SO WOE TO THOSE WHO LIVE TO BE RICH, FOR THEY ARE RECEIVING THEIR COMFORT IN FULL.

*** **WHICH LEADS US TO THE 2'D WOE TODAY,** LOOK AT V. 25A PLEASE.

II. WOE #2, (READ V. 25A)

A. NOW JESUS PRONOUNCED THE SECOND WOE ON THOSE WHO ARE WELL FED NOW, LIT. WHO ARE FULL, WHICH IS THE OPPOSITE OF BEING HUNGRY.

* AND SOMEONE WHO IS FULL IS ALREADY SATISFIED.

** AND HERE JESUS SEEMS TO BE SPEAKING ABOUT PEOPLE WHO ARE SPIRITUALLY **COMPLACENT, THEY DON'T HUNGER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, THEY DON'T HAVE MUCH** OF AN APPETITE FOR GOD.

*** THEY ARE SELF-SATISFIED, FULL OF THE **WORLD, FULL OF THE TEMPORAL, THEY DON'T** HUNGER FOR CHRIST AND THE THINGS OF GOD.

**** THEIR FOOD IS FUN NOW, PARTY NOW, BE **FULL OF THE WHAT DOESN'T LAST, THINGS,** MONEY, THE MATERIAL.

1. AND THEY MAY NOT BE RICH, BUT THEY HAVE MORE THAN THEY NEED AND HAVE NO REAL HUNGER FOR GOD OR RIGHTEOUSNESS. THEY LOOK TO SIN TO SATISFY.

* THEY FEEL SATISFIED, AS IF SPIRITUALLY THEY HAVE GONE FAR ENOUGH ALREADY. THEY DO NOT WANT ANYTHING TOO RADICAL, OR GO OUTSIDE OF THE COMFORT ZONE, THEY ARE SELF-RIGHTEOUS, FULL OF SELF, THEIR BELLIES ARE FULL AND THEY ARE SELF-SATISFIED.

** PHILIP RYKEN IN HIS COMMENTARY ON LUKE ILLUSTRATES THIS BY TELLING THE STORY OF A DUCK FLYING ACROSS EUROPE IN THE SPRINGTIME, HE SAID AND I QUOTE:

*** "ALONG THE WAY, THE DUCK SETTLED IN A BARNYARD WHERE TAME DUCKS WERE FED CORN EVERY DAY. HE INTENDED TO STAY FOR ONLY AN HOUR, BUT THERE WAS SO MUCH GOOD FOOD THAT HE DECIDED TO STAY FOR THE DAY, THEN A WEEK, AND FINALLY THE WHOLE SUMMER.

**** NEXT AUTUMN HE HEARD A FLOCK OF WILD DUCKS PASS OVERHEAD. WHEN HE HEARD THEIR WILD CALL, HE FLAPPED HIS WINGS AND ROSE TO JOIN THEM. BUT BY THIS TIME HE WAS SO FAT, THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE STRUGGLED, HE FAILED TO GET ANY HIGHER THAN THE ROOF OF THE BARN. SO HE DROPPED BACK TO THE GROUND AND SETTLED IN FOR THE WINTER.

(2) THE NEXT TIME THE DUCK HEARD THE CALL OF THE WILD, HE LIFTED HIS HEAD EXCITEDLY, **BUT HE COULDN'T EVEN GET OFF THE GROUND.** EVENTUALLY HE GREW SO SATISFIED WITH HIS **LIFE IN THE BARNYARD THAT HE DIDN'T NOTICE THE WILD DUCKS AT ALL."**

* NOW THE POINT OF THIS STORY IS THE SAME THING CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE WHO STARTS GORGING ON WHAT OUR WORLD HAS TO OFFER.

** YOU DECIDE TO STAY A LITTLE LONGER AND TASTE THE SWEET CORN, THE JUNK FOOD OF UNGODLINESS.

*** FOR A WHILE A PERSON GOES TO CHURCH AND HEARS WHAT GOD HAS TO SAY, BUT EVENTUALLY THEY DECIDE THAT IT IS HARDLY WORTH THE EFFORT OF GETTING UP TO COME.

**** AND THE IRONY IS THAT PEOPLE LIKE THIS WHOM ACTUALLY FEEL THEY ARE FULL ACTUALLY GO HUNGRY.

(3) THEY ARE FULL OF JUNK FOOD FROM THE WORLD THAT HAS GREAT TASTE AND THEY ARE FULL OF POTATO CHIPS AND CREAM STICKS, AND PIE AND CAKE, THEY ARE FILLED UP, BUT THEY NEED SPIRITUAL NUTRITION AND ARE HUNGRY.

* IN ESSENCE THEY ARE STARVING, BUT THEY **DON'T KNOW IT BECAUSE THEY DON'T FEEL HUNGRY, THEY ARE FULL ON JUNK FOOD AND THINGS THAT WON'T SATISFY.**

** THEY FEEL FULL AND IN RELYING ON FEELING, SEEKING THEIR OWN AGENDA, FOLLOWING THEIR QUOTE DREAMS, THEY WILL BE HUNGRY, FOR THEIR END IS ETERNAL JUDGMENT.

*** THEY ARE STARVED **AND THEY DON'T KNOW** IT. WOE TO THEM, WHICH LEADS TO WOE #3, LOOK BACK TO V. 25 PLEASE.

III. WOE #3, (READ V. 25)

A. NOW LAUGHING IS NOT SIN, FOR ECCLESIASTES 3:4 **SAYS: "THERE IS A TIME TO WEEP AND A TIME TO LAUGH."**

* AND THE LAUGHTER HERE IN LUKE 6:25 APPEARS TO BE TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE WHO NEVER GET SERIOUS ABOUT SPIRITUAL ETERNAL THINGS.

** THEY NEVER WEEP OVER THEIR SPIRITUAL CONDITION, THEY WANT TO EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY, LIFE IS A JOKE, THEY LIVE FOR THE LAUGHS.

*** THEY ARE SILLY, SHALLOW AND SUPERFICIAL, EVEN WHEN IT IS TIME TO GET SERIOUS.

**** WHENEVER ANYONE SPEAKS TO THEM ABOUT SPIRITUAL ETERNAL THINGS, THEY LAUGH IT OFF WITH A JOKE, LIFE IS ABOUT HAVING A GOOD TIME, AND ENDLESS SITCOM.

1. TO THEM JESUS IS A JOKE, GOD IS A JOKE, THE BIBLE IS A JOKE, THEY MOCK GOD, SCORN HIS WORD AND RIDICULE HIS FOLLOWERS.

* AND WHAT A SAD WAY THIS IS TO LIVE, BECAUSE PEOPLE WHO NEVER GET SERIOUS ABOUT JESUS WILL NEVER RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE AND FORGIVENESS OF SIN.

** FOR THEM, FOR ETERNITY THERE WILL ONLY BE WEEPING AND GNASHING OF TEETH, FOR THEY SHALL MOURN AND WEEP ONE DAY (QUOTE MATTHEW 13:50)

*** AND BELOVED THE END AND LOTS OF **PEOPLE THAT DON'T TRULY KNOW JESUS** CHRIST IS MOURNING AND WEEPING FOREVER IN THE LAKE OF FIRE, NOT ANNIHILATION, QUOTE MATTHEW 25:46.

**** AND THEN IN REVELATION 14:10&11 IN TALKING ABOUT UNSAVED PEOPLE IN THE TRIBULATION WHO WORSHIP THE BEAST AND TAKE UP HIS NAME, IT SAYS OF THEN IN REVELATION 14:10&11 -

V. 10 - HE ALSO WILL DRINK OF THE WINE OF THE WRATH OF GOD, WHICH IS MIXED IN FULL STRENGTH IN THE CUP OF HIS ANGER; AND HE WILL BE TORMENTED WITH FIRE AND BRIMSTONE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY ANGELS AND IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LAMB.

V. 11 - AND THE SMOKE OF THEIR TORMENT GOES UP FOREVER AND EVER; THEY HAVE NO REST DAY AND NIGHT, THOSE WHO WORSHIP THE BEAST AND HIS IMAGE, AND WHOEVER **RECEIVES THE MARK OF HIS NAME."**

2. AND TRULY THERE IS NO REST FOR THE WICKED BURNING IN HELL EXPECTING **GOD'S** HOT WRATH AGAINST SIN. LAUGH NOW, REJECT **CHRIST NOW, DON'T GET SERIOUS ABOUT** SPIRITUAL THINGS NOW, MOURN AND WEEP FOREVER.

* WHICH LEADS US TO OUR 4TH AND LAST WOE TODAY, LOOK AT V. 26 PLEASE.

IV. WOE #4, (READ V. 26)

A. NOW THE FINAL CONTRASTING WOE PRONOUNCED ON THE CURSED IS THAT OF POPULARITY.

* AND IF YOU RECALL FROM LAST SUNDAY AS WE LOOKED AT HAPPY ARE HARASSED, HAPPY ARE THE PERSECUTED, AND JESUS LIKED THE UNPOPULAR TRUE DISCIPLES TO THE TRUE PROPHETS AND HOW THEY WERE TREATED, WHICH WAS NOT WELL.

** AND HERE IN V. 26, JESUS LINKED FALSE DISCIPLES TO THE FALSE PROPHETS. THE POINT BEING FALSE PROPHETS ARE POPULAR. THEY **WRITE BOOKS LIKE "YOUR BEST LIFE NOW,"** AND EVERY DAY A FRIDAY, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE NOW, THE TEMPORAL, FRIDAY IS HAPPIEST DAY OF THE WEEK, FOR THE WEEKEND IS COMING, RATHER THAN THE BEST IS YET TO COME.

*** AND AS MUCH AS WE WANT TO BE THE KINDEST MOST LOVING, GENEROUS, HONEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD, WE DO NOT WANT TO BE PEOPLE PLEASES, QUOTE GALATIANS 1:10.

**** AND WHEN ALL PEOPLE SPEAK WELL OF US IT SHOWS, IT DECLARES THAT WE ARE NOT LIVING AND SPEAKING FOR JESUS CHRIST.

1. BELOVED, WE ARE NOT TO FALL INTO THE TRAP OF COURTING ACCEPTANCE FROM PEOPLE BY COMPROMISING THE MESSAGE OR TELLING LIES OR WATERING DOWN THE TRUTH AS FALSE PROPHETS DO.

* POPULARITY IS NOT OUR GOAL, FLATTERY FROM PEOPLE IS NOT OUR END, WE CANNOT PUT THE **CROWD'S PRAISE OVER GOD'S TRUTH.** IF EVERYBODY SPEAKS WELL OF YOU, WATCH OUT.

** AS R. C. SPROUL SAID ON HIS STUDY IN LUKE AND **I QUOTE:** "THERE IS NOTHING WRONG IN HAVING PEOPLE LIKE US; THERE IS NOTHING WRONG IN HAVING A GOOD REPUTATION. THE APOSTLE IN ROMANS 12:18 SAYS THAT WE OUGHT TO BE AT PEACE WITH ALL MEN, AS MUCH AS IT IS IN OUR POWER THAT WE OUGHT TO HAVE A GOOD REPUTATION. HOWEVER, IF EVERYBODY SPEAKS WELL OF YOU, WATCH OUT. IN A SINFUL WORLD THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY FOR ALL PEOPLE TO SPEAK WELL OF YOU, AND THAT IS IF YOU ARE HYPOCRITICAL, IF YOU ARE COMPROMISING YOUR ETHIC, IF YOU ARE TAKING A CHANGING POSTURE TO SUIT THE DESIRES OF THOSE WITH WHOM YOU COME IN CONTACT. A PERSON OF INTEGRITY AND RIGHTEOUSNESS ON THE OTHER HAND, IS BOUND TO **ALIENATE SOME IN THIS WORLD.**" (END QUOTE)

*** AND HOW TRUE THAT IS! BELOVED WATCH OUT WHEN EVERYBODY SPEAKS WELL OF YOU! SOMETHING IS WRONG.

**** AND EVEN A LOT OF CHURCHES TRY TO PLEASE EVERYONE. THUS AS PRAGMATISTS, **THEY DON'T TALK ABOUT SIN, NEGATIVE THINGS,** DESIGN A SERVICE TO PLEASE UNSAVED PEOPLE AND THUS GIVE A SERMONETTE AND IN REALITY TALK ABOUT **SOME PARTS OF THE WORD BUT DON'T** PROCLAIM IT. THEY HAVE A LITTLE TALK DEALING WITH FELT NEEDS RATHER THAN REAL NEEDS, WHEREAS PAUL SAID TO THE GALATIANS IN GALATIANS 4:16: (QUOTE IT)

1. ALONG THIS LINE OF THOUGHT J. C. RYLE RIGHTLY OBSERVED AND I QUOTE: **"TO BE** UNIVERSALLY POPULAR IS A MOST UNSATISFACTORY SYMPTOM, AND ONE OF WHICH A MINISTER OF CHRIST SHOULD ALWAYS BE AFRAID. IT MAY WELL MAKE HIM DOUBT WHETHER HE IS FAITHFULLY DOING HIS DUTY AND HONESTLY DECLARING THE WHOLE **COUNSEL OF GOD."**

*** AND THAT'S A QUESTION PREACHERS MUST**
ASK OF THEMSELVES, TO WHOM AM I
PREACHING TO PLEASE, THE CONGREGATION OF
THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH-CHRIST.

** AND BELOVED, BOTTOM LINE, IF WE ARE
LIVING LIKE JESUS THEN THERE ARE BOUND TO
BE SOME PEOPLE WHO WILL NOT SPEAK WELL
OF US, ANY MORE THAN THEY SPEAK WELL OF
HIM.

IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION: (1) JOHN
MACARTHUR SAID IN HIS COMMENTARY ON
LUKE 6-10 AND I QUOTE:

*** "THERE ARE ONLY TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE IN
THE WORLD. CHRIST'S TRUE FOLLOWERS, THE
SPIRITUALLY POOR, HUNGRY, SORROWFUL AND
REJECTED, CRY OUT TO GOD FOR PARDON AND
MERCY THROUGH THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS
CHRIST. THEY ARE BLESSED WITH ETERNAL
RICHES, SATISFACTION, JOY, ACCEPTANCE, AND
REWARD.**

** IN CONTRAST, THOSE WHO SEE THEMSELVES AS SPIRITUALLY FULL, RICH, HAPPY AND ACCEPTED WILL BE CURSED WITH ETERNAL POVERTY, EMPTINESS, SORROW AND **JUDGMENT.**" (END QUOTE)

*** THE QUESTION FOR EVERYONE TODAY IS, WHICH CAMP ARE YOU IN? DO YOU TRULY KNOW JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR, OR ARE YOU TRUSTING IN RELIGION AND IN SELF?

**** IF YOU HAVE NOT TURNED FROM YOUR WAY, YOUR SIN, YOUR WISDOM, TURN IN REPENTANT FAITH TO JESUS CHRIST TODAY, FOR FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SIN AS THE ONLY SAVIOR.

2. AND THEN TO PROFESSING BELIEVERS OR TRUE BELIEVERS, IF YOU PURSUE RICHES, BEING FILLED WITH WORLD, LAUGHTER AND POPULARITY YOU ARE PURSUING FOOLS GOD, CUBIC ZIRCONIUM, AND YOU ARE NOT THINKING RIGHT.

* AND HERE IS TRUE WISDOM, JIM ELLIOT MARTYRED MISSIONARY TO THE AUCA TRIBE IN ECUADOR SAID SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEATH AND I QUOTE, A FAMOUS QUOTE: **"HE IS NO FOOL WHO GIVES WHAT HE CANNOT KEEP TO GAIN WHAT HE CANNOT LOSE."**

** JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 16:25&26: (QUOTE THEM).

*** I CLOSE WITH THE QUESTION TO EVERYONE TODAY. IN THE TUG OF WAR BETWEEN THE **WORLD AND CHRIST, BETWEEN THE WORLD'S RICHES AND GOD'S**, WHICH SIDE HAS THE STRONGER GRIP ON YOUR HEART? **(LET'S PRAY)**