

TITLE AND NUMBER: 224 Our reward is in Heaven!



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES: Luke 6:20-26

'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

LOOKING FURTHER: Luke 9:58, Luke 9:3, 2 Timothy 4:7-8, Psalm 5:11-12

What does the Bible passage tell us?

When Jesus was teaching the huge crowd, He shared a lot of vitally important lessons in a short time. He had only just appointed the disciples and was setting out a warning for them and anyone that followed Him. He said there may be much heartache ahead and a lot to endure. But, their reward will be great in heaven.

Jesus said blessed are the poor, the hungry, the sorrowful - people who are hated and abused or cut off by family or the community for following Christ. We can be pretty sure the disciples experienced all these things. They had to leave their jobs – how did their families manage without their income and without them being around to help? They would have been much the poorer. Jesus wandered from town to town almost continually and relied upon the kindness of strangers often. Luke 9:58 tells us Jesus had no home to come back to and, given that travel was by foot, the disciples couldn't exactly pop home when it got a bit hard going either.

In Luke 9:3, we read that the disciples were sent out with nothing to sustain them. No food or provisions, no spare clothes, no comforts at all. People would offer them hospitality along the way. But, if they didn't, they should simply move on. Was this a blueprint for their service to Jesus? They had to depend on God alone. Does that mean it could be the same for us?

Jesus was teaching them - and us - that the finer things in life and material goods don't matter. God will give us what we need. And, if we trust Him and persevere to the end, our reward will be from Him - not from people; not the adulation of the crowds, but the smile and blessing of God.

Reflection

- Is it easy to accept hardship? We tend to want an easy life. If God expects us to endure difficulty or challenges to serve Him, that is not going to be easy. Why do you think He wants us to persevere? 2 Timothy 4:7-8 gives us a clue!
- It isn't easy to stick to our faith wherever we are - in prison, or outside. People will try to say we are foolish to follow Jesus. How can we respond to that? Have a look at Psalm 5:11-12 and see what David said about it from his experience. He says our reward begins now - with God's protection and favour already in action. What more could we ask for?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Blessed

Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

