

A watercolor illustration of a coastal town. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills with some trees. In the middle ground, a town is built on a hillside, featuring a prominent lighthouse with a white tower and a dark top. To the left, a sea stack rises from the water. The sky is filled with soft, white and blue clouds. The overall style is soft and artistic, with visible brushstrokes and a warm color palette.

The Gospel of

Luke

Luke 6:12

12 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.

“For consider your calling, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.”

(1 Corinthians 1:26-29)

Luke 6:13-16

13 And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: 14 Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, 15 and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, 16 and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

“Now when the rulers and elders and scribes saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)

Luke 6:17-19

17 And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, 18 who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. 19 And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

Luke 6:20-21

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. 21 Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

Luke 6:22-23

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! 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.”

Blessed (Greek *makarios*)

- The transcendent happiness of those whose lives are untouched by care, labor, or the fear of death
- A congratulations pronounced over those judged to have all the raw materials required for joy and well-being

“May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.” (2 Peter 1:2-4)

“For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he knows from afar.”
(Psalm 138:6)

So what are the advantages of the poor
in light of the coming of God's
kingdom?

The Advantages of the Poor

- Their desperation and extreme vulnerability makes them more willing to place their lives in the hands of God and respond positively to his teaching and invitation

The Advantages of the Poor

- Their clear sense of their need

The Advantages of the Poor

- Their ability (at times) to see more clearly through the false promises of earthly consolation

Luke 6:24-26

24 “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 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. 26 Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.”

Woe is an expression of deep sorrow or pity and often contains within it a sense of warning.

“Jesus, seeing that the rich young ruler had become sad, said, ‘How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.’”

(Luke 18:24-25)

How is it that those who were so advantaged in society have become disadvantaged when it comes to embracing God's kingdom?

“The gospel is good news to the poor and the powerless. It is also good news to the rich and the mighty, but only if they follow a path of radical obedience, which in turn will affect their riches and power.” (J. González)

“No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” (Luke 16:13)

The Disadvantages of the Privileged

- It is hard to turn from what seems good (even if you know it be insufficient, fickle, or false) to experience what is better.
- They will feel the loss of their previously known earthly consolation.

BEWARE: Money can displace God and
steal your heart!

Certain forms of consolation are denied
to Jesus' disciples or will prove
detrimental to those who seek to
receive and embrace God's kingdom.

- What earthly consolation is your heart tempted to cling to instead of Jesus?
- Write what might be Jesus' woe to you.
- What impact does your clinging to that idol have on your life?
- Which promises of God are you rejecting by doing so?
- How is Jesus and his consolation better than that idol?