



STUDY GUIDE

AGAINST THE GRAIN 09.29.2019

[start with prayer]

Missions Prayer Focus this week:
Vadim and Svetlana Ivanov—Ukrainian Church Planters

[set up]

We see and hear the word “blessed” often: “#blessed,” “I’m blessed,” “They are blessed,” etc. When someone says “blessed,” what is included and excluded in their understanding and definition of “blessed”?

[digging deeper]

Look up and read Luke 6:17-26.

This passage includes the “beatitudes.” We get the word beatitude from the Latin, “Beatus” meaning “blessed.” What does the word “Blessed” mean? If you need help, here’s a good link to check out: <https://biblehub.com/greek/3107.htm>

Luke records four beatitudes and four woes in these verses. After a quick review, how are the blessings and woes different from what the world would define as blessings as well as what we in our flesh would expect?

Who was Jesus specifically talking to? Are these blessings and woes just for “anybody”? How does this change the meaning of what He said?

Complete the four “blessed” sayings:

Blessed are the poor for _____

Blessed are the hungry now for _____

Blessed are those who weep now for _____

Blessed are those who are hated on account of the son of Man for _____

Describe the reward Jesus is referring to for each beatitude and when that reward happens.

(over)

Complete the four contrasting “woe” sayings:

Woe to you who are rich _____

Who to you who are full now _____

Woe to you who laugh now _____

Woe to you who are spoken well of _____

Explain and elaborate on the cautions Jesus is giving. Is He saying it’s bad to be rich, full, to laugh, and to be well spoken of?

How can these passages apply to our lives? What do they mean for us? How can they help us live this life as faithful followers of Christ?

[living it out]

(If in a LifeGroup, give everyone a few minutes to complete these questions on their own, then come back together to share with each other the answers and then pray together or in smaller groups.)

How has your understanding of “blessed” been changed from this time?

What is one practical application that you can take from this time?

Pray around the themes and applications that have come to your heart and mind from this time.