

GOD'S BLESSINGS AND WOES **THE JESUS WAY**

Luke 6:20-26

19 March 2023

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Experiencing God's Blessings + Woes

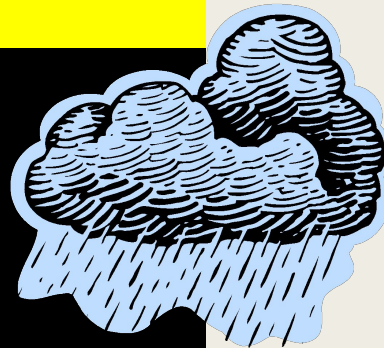
(makarioi) Blessing:

- God smiles upon...
- God is found in the midst of...



(ouai) Woe:

- God frowns upon...
- God stands against...



The Jesus Way rejects the *status quo*

Woe

Blessed are the rich, the well-fed, those who
laugh, the respected...

Blessed

Woe to the poor, the hungry, those who weep,
the oppressed...

The Jesus Way seems counter-intuitive

The Church's Way accepts the *status quo*

1. *All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.*

2. Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings. *All things bright ...*

3. **The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at his gate,
God made them high and lowly,
And ordered their estate.**

All things bright ...

7. He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well. *All things bright ...*

All Things Bright and Beautiful is an Anglican hymn popular with other Christian denominations. The words are by Cecil Frances Alexander and were published in 1848 in her *Hymns for Little Children*.

Jesus spoke the Beatitudes/Woes to his disciples

Blessed are the poor, the hungry, those who
weep, the oppressed...

Woe to the rich, the well-fed, those who
laugh, the respected...

The Jesus Way tells us who God smiles upon
and where God can be found – if we look



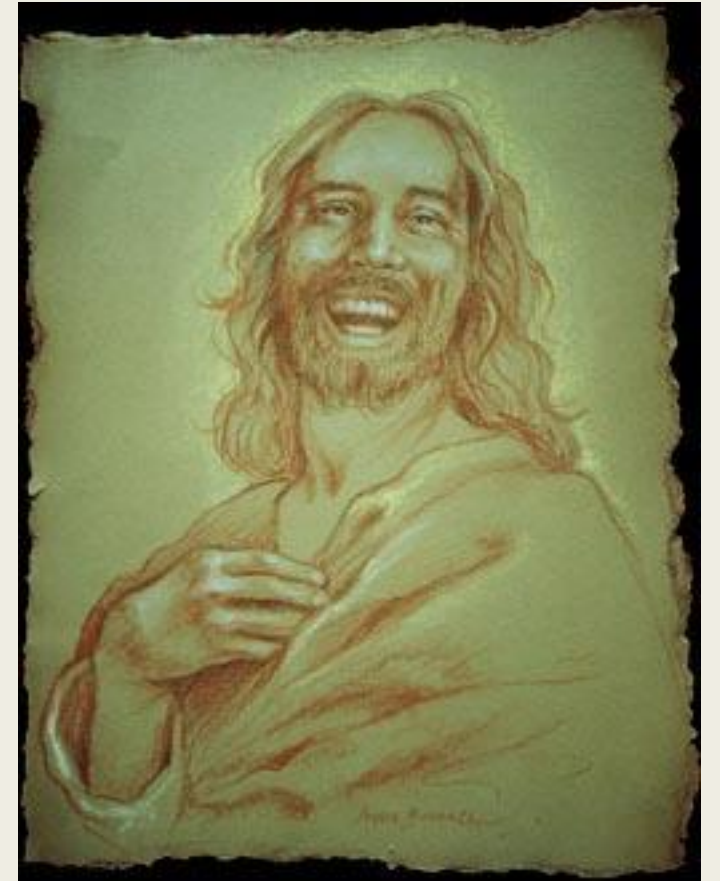
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The Jesus Way is NOT the way of misery

These beatitudes and woes are spoken to people who are in a state, they are not instructing people to seek to become poor, hungry, miserable, and marginalised



The Way of Jesus is about siding with God



God
stands
against

the rich, the well-fed, those who
laugh, those who are honoured...



God
sides
with

the poor, the hungry, those who
weep, those who are despised...

The Way of Jesus is about siding with God

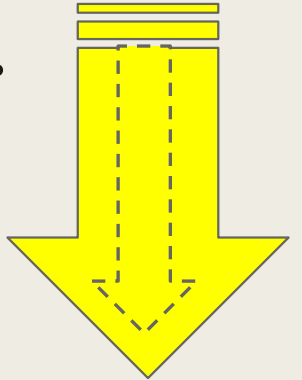
NOT
God's
side

the rich, the well-fed, those who
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God's
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the poor, the hungry, those
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Inside AND outside the church



The *WAY of the WORLD* is me-centred

My wealth allows me to secure my future

My plenty allows me to consume freely now

My joy allows me to celebrate with my kind

My good reputation allows me to protect the *status quo*

The *WAY* of *JESUS* is other-centred

My wealth allows me to be generous to those in need

My plenty allows me to share with those without

My joy allows me to include the excluded and marginalised

My good reputation gives me power to change the *status quo*

The Jesus Way of Blessing and Woe

I will stand on God's side of life

- I will stand among those that God stands amongst

I will share the burden of grief

- through weeping with those who weep
- through listening to those with no voice
- through interceding for the powerless