

Luke 6:17-26

Last Wednesday I watched Grace Tame and Brittany Higgins address the National Press Club.

Both women gave talks which spoke of the pain and challenges which they have faced. Both women said that there is so much still to be done in the areas of child abuse, workplace abuse and sexual assault.

I felt sorry for these two women. They have each fought throughout the past year to attempt to right the wrongs which they see around them, and have experienced personally.

It seemed that many at the Press Club function expected these two women to have all the answers, and to create the change which is needed. Such changes can only come about when governments, politicians and all of society are prepared to accept change.

Two women, no matter how articulate and motivated, are unable to change the world on their own.

In this story from Luke 6, I have the feeling that hundreds, and maybe thousands of people were there, wanting Jesus to create change for them.

They wanted Jesus to heal them, to teach them, and to turn their lives around. Most of the people were probably not ready for what Jesus had to say to them!

In a society which saw wealth as a sign of blessing from God, Jesus turned that idea on its head.

Jesus told the people that the wealthy had already received their reward, and that they should expect to hunger in the future. For those who were happy now, sorrow awaited them in the future.

Many people would have left Jesus' presence wondering about what he had said. "Surely he can't mean that!", and "How can that be true", would have summed up what many thought.

Yet Jesus meant every word. In John 10, Jesus talks about being the Good Shepherd. Jesus talks about coming into our world to shepherd those people who have no one to care for them. In Luke 6, Jesus is telling these people that they won't always be the ones who are hungry or sad. God cares about each and every one of us. Jesus message wasn't what was expected. It probably wasn't what many people wanted to hear.

The message which Grace and Brittany brought wasn't what many wanted to hear either - that we each have a role to play if we want society to change in a positive way. Change is possible, but only when we are all ready to work towards it.

The message that Jesus gave, that God blesses the poor and the hungry, can also only happen here on earth if we are all ready to work towards it. After almost 2,000 years, there is still much to be done.

Blessings from Meg

Luke 6:17-26 (NIV)

Blessings and Woes

¹⁷ He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸ who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, ¹⁹ and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

²⁰ Looking at his disciples, he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² 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.

²³ “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because
great is your reward in heaven. For that is how
their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.

²⁵ 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.

²⁶ Woe to you when everyone speaks well of
you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the
false prophets.

Call me crazy but I love to
see other people happy and
succeeding in their life.

**Life is a journey,
not a competition.**



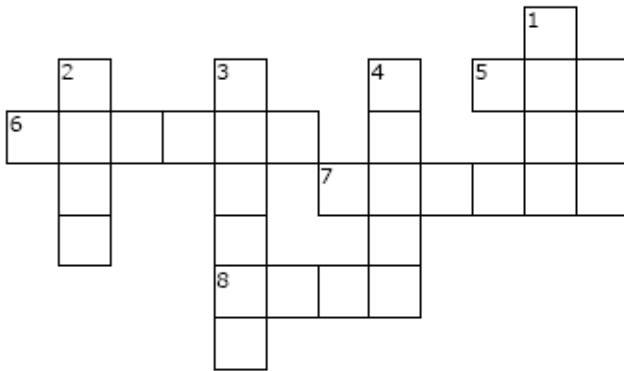
The Sermon on the Plain

"Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets. Luke 6:23 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 6:17-26 (NIV).



J L K U Q G K C C O M F O R T P
 S H E Z D W C Q U M O U R N C
 A U V P J S E B D W O V H J J
 T N I S O Q O E O A L E O Q C
 I G L E W O T D P N P E V M V
 S E L K O C R K I N G D O M Q
 F R W A E U P Y G R E A T R B
 I I G J J U T G R R E W A R D L
 E D E J J F G E P W R G E K T E
 D R W M O D H E E I B G L C S
 V S L T U Y A N F C V U I R S
 H Z O L Z Y G X R H S O A V E
 X A C S Y C L G A N J F C L D
 B X T I N E G X I E K C Z I M
 E U F E Y Z O P R B A S S I O



ACROSS

5. A feeling of great happiness
6. The home of God, the angels, and those who have been saved
7. To have a desire or need for food
8. Having a great amount of money

DOWN

1. Having very little money or few possessions
2. To shed tears
3. Something given or received in return for good behavior
4. The sound which expresses happiness or delight

blessed	exclude	evil	insult	comfort
reject	joy	satisfied	hunger	woe
reward	rich	great	kingdom	hate
weep	poor	rejoice	mourn	laugh