



Study 2

Luke 6:16-49

NOTES IN BLUE ARE FOR LEADERS:

Big Idea: Life as a citizen of the kingdom of God looks upside-down compared with what we view as normal moral behaviour

Hook: What do Canberrans think is good behaviour? [Do we as Christians have a simplistic view of what following Jesus looks like?]

Big Application: Rejoice in living as a citizen of God and surprise people with Jesus' upside-down view of what the good life really looks like

UPSIDE-DOWN PREACHING – LUKE 6:17-49

Kick Off Question

Create a list of what your Canberran peers would say is good, moral & virtuous behaviour? You might want to use recently news stories to help create the list.

You might want to use some butchers paper/ white board to brainstorm this together.

Maybe every person in the group has to pick one Canberran virtue, value or behaviour

JESUS' SERMON ON THE PLAIN

Read Luke 6:17-19.

Today our text is Jesus sermon on the plain (Lk 6:17-49). Once again the crowds have come for healing and whilst Jesus does heal many, he continues to prioritize the preaching the good news of the kingdom of God (Lk 4:43). In this section Jesus preaches about (a) What kind of person inherits the kingdom of God and (b) What kind of behaviour characterizes citizens of God's kingdom? As you listen to Jesus teach again today, you might want to pray that you might be challenged afresh by Jesus upside-down view of life.

Turn over your butchers paper and on the back write 'citizens of the kingdom of God'. Over the course of the study, as you come to understand the main points of the text, you will be writing another list of characteristics of the of a person who is a citizen of the Kingdom of God. So wherever you get up to in the study, make sure you leave 10minutes or so to answer the last question & tie it all together.

BECOMING A CITIZEN OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD:

Read Luke 6:20-26

1. What are the key characteristics of a citizen in the kingdom of God? List them out together.

Add these to your butchers paper...

Poor (v20), hungry (v21), mourner (v21), hated & reviled (v22), needy (v24-25), humbled/ sorrowful (v25)

2. What do these key characteristics tell you about the way a kingdom person relates to God?

We come to God in great spiritual need. We are dependent on him for salvation and all things. These characteristics go a long way to describe what *faith* is.

3. How can you keep coming before God in this way?

In prayer, in confession, in humility and in gladly facing opposition...

CITIZENS AND ENEMIES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

4. How does v22-23 & v26 relate to the other characteristics you listed above? (i.e. why will a person who is dependent on God be reviled and excluded by the world?)

V22-23 & v26 show us that those with faith, who depend on God (like the prophets of old), are showing the world of the need to depend on Jesus for life. This is offensive because it says that we are not dependent on the world for life. We are not dependent on our jobs, our family, our fiancés etc. for life.

No matter how good your life might be, a life dependent on God, is offensive to others.

This is the fate Jesus himself would face. Jesus lived a perfect/good life, perfectly depending on his Father. The result? The cross.

Add more characteristics to your butchers paper.

Citizens of God can be hated, reviled, excluded

Read Luke 6:27-36

5. How is the citizen of God's kingdom behave differently to the average 'sinner' & why?

Add more characteristics to your butchers paper.

You can expect an average sinner to love those who love them but people of the Kingdom... love enemies (v27), pray for & bless their enemies (v29) give & lend (v30, 35), don't make demands on others (v30,35), are merciful (v36) and are like God! (v36)

6. Pick one of the following people and discuss how you could show Christ's love to a person who ...

- a. shows outward disdain for God
- b. excludes you or even bullies you
- c. is just irritating

THE JUDGE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

Read Luke 6:37-42

7. If God is the King of the Kingdom that means he is the judge in the kingdom. What do these verses teach you about the way citizens of God's kingdom deal with other people's wrong-doing?

Add more characteristics to your butchers paper.

They let God judge.

They are aware of their own sin.

8. How do you remind yourself that God is the judge of others & not you?

TRUE CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM

Read Luke 6:43-49

9. Using both of the images described, what a citizen of God's kingdom looks like?

Add more characteristics to your butchers paper.

Tree & fruit: A citizen of the kingdom will have faith in God, *in their heart* (v45) and so they will produce good fruit that speaks of their King. This is opposed to a heart that rejects God and speaks evil (v46). This reminds us of Romans 10, those who believe in their heart and confess with their mouth that Jesus is Lord will be saved.

House on a rock: A genuine citizen of the kingdom (a) comes to Jesus (b) hears God's word and (c) puts it into practice (v47)

Wrap up

How does a life following Jesus as a citizen of God's kingdom, look similar to or different from the virtues that we came up with at the start of this study?

Compare this to question 1. What about Jesus' centric living is so unexpected?

What's more desirable about the life of a citizen of God's kingdom? Why do you want to live as a citizen of the kingdom?

Life with Jesus is dependent on grace and not performance. It's dependent on what we inherit as poor, lowly sinners. We don't have to pretend to be something we're not.

Life dependent on performance, just trying to be good all the time... is exhausting and ultimately impossible.

Life with Jesus is unexpected. You can surprise people. You can begin to show people Jesus by the way you live.

How can you surprise your Canberran friends by the way you speak and live as a citizen of God's kingdom?