

Time Audit Chronicles: The Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:17-49)

Prologue: Jesus' Radical Teachings on the Kingdom of God

The Presswood family was gathered around the living room, the room bathed in the soft glow of the evening lamp. Ariel had just finished reading **Luke 6:17-49**, the powerful **Sermon on the Plain**, where Jesus delivered some of His most radical teachings about life in God's Kingdom. She sat, contemplating the profound words of Jesus, while Alice, with Mr. Fluffernutter in hand, was mimicking a sermon for her toys, preaching love and kindness to her stuffed animals.

“Daddy,” Ariel said, her voice filled with curiosity, “Why does Jesus bless the poor, the hungry, and the persecuted? Shouldn't He be blessing the rich, the well-fed, and those who aren't suffering?”

Ryan smiled, recognizing the depth of Ariel's question. “That's a great observation, Ariel. Jesus' **Beatitudes**—the blessings He pronounced on the poor, the hungry, and the persecuted—are a reflection of the values of **God's Kingdom**. In God's Kingdom, everything is turned upside down. In the world, we often associate wealth and comfort with blessing, but Jesus shows us that God's favor isn't based on outward circumstances. The **poor** and the **hungry** are blessed because they are more likely to depend on God, and the **persecuted** are blessed because they're following Jesus, even when it's hard. These blessings reflect God's heart for those who are humble, dependent on Him, and willing to suffer for righteousness.”

Ariel nodded, thinking deeply. “So, Jesus is saying that **humility** and **dependence on God** are what truly matter, not how much wealth or comfort we have?”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “And that's a big part of what the **Sermon on the Plain** is all about. Jesus was teaching that **true greatness** in God's Kingdom comes from things like humility, love, and mercy—not from power or wealth.”

Ariel smiled, beginning to understand. “So, Jesus is flipping the world's values upside down, showing that God cares more about our hearts and our dependence on Him than what we have.”

“That's right,” Ryan said. “Let's use the **Time Audit Machine** to go back and witness this powerful teaching moment, where Jesus reveals what life in God's Kingdom is really about.”

The Journey Begins: Jesus Teaching on the Plain (Luke 6:17-19)

The Time Audit Machine hummed, and with a flash of light, the family found themselves standing on a **level place**—a plain, where Jesus was surrounded by a **great crowd** of people from all over Judea, Galilee, and beyond. The air was filled with excitement and anticipation as the crowd eagerly gathered around Jesus. His words would not only challenge their understanding of God's Kingdom, but would also offer hope to those who were marginalized and oppressed.

“This is where the **Sermon on the Plain** was delivered,” Ryan said, pointing to the group of people sitting on the ground. “Unlike the **Sermon on the Mount** in Matthew, which was delivered on a mountain, this sermon took place on a flat area, and it was aimed at the crowds that had gathered to hear Jesus.”

Ariel looked around, feeling the energy of the crowd. “It must have been amazing to hear Jesus speak directly to the people like that, especially since so many were suffering or marginalized.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus’ message in this sermon was especially meant for the poor, the sick, the outcasts, and those who were struggling. He wanted to show them that in God’s Kingdom, they were blessed and valued.”

The Beatitudes: Blessings for the Poor, Hungry, and Persecuted (Luke 6:20-23)

Jesus began His sermon by pronouncing **blessings** on those who were struggling in life. He spoke directly to the **poor**, the **hungry**, and those who were **persecuted** for following Him. He said:

“Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the Kingdom of God. Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh. Blessed are ye when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man’s sake.” (Luke 6:20-22)

Ariel’s heart softened as she listened. “Jesus is saying that the poor, the hungry, and those who suffer will be **blessed** in God’s Kingdom. They will be **filled** and find joy, even when things are hard now.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “In God’s Kingdom, the values are completely different from the world’s. The world often focuses on success, wealth, and comfort, but Jesus is showing that true **blessing** comes from a heart that is humble, dependent on God, and willing to endure hardship for His sake.”

Ariel thought about it. “So, Jesus isn’t saying that it’s bad to be rich or comfortable, but He’s showing that God’s **favor** doesn’t depend on what we have. It depends on our hearts.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Jesus was showing that when we are poor, hungry, or persecuted for following God, we are in a position where we can experience God’s **fullness** and His **Kingdom** in a way that the rich and powerful often can’t. This is a **reversal** of the values of the world.”

Woes to the Rich and Comfortable (Luke 6:24-26)

After pronouncing blessings on the poor and suffering, Jesus also warned those who were **rich**, **comfortable**, and **unwilling to face hardship** for His sake. He declared **woes** to them, saying:

“But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation. Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep. Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.” (Luke 6:24-26)

Ariel blinked in surprise. “Jesus is saying that the **rich** and **comfortable** might have everything now, but they will face hardship later if they don’t follow God’s ways?”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus was warning that if we focus only on **earthly wealth** and success, we might miss out on the deeper blessings of God’s Kingdom. God’s Kingdom isn’t about outward appearances—it’s about the **heart**. The rich and comfortable can easily become blind to their need for God, but those who are humble, hungry, and dependent on Him are blessed in ways that matter for eternity.”

Ariel nodded thoughtfully. “It’s a reminder that **true wealth** comes from God, not from what we have on earth.”

Love Your Enemies: Mercy Over Retaliation (Luke 6:27-36)

Next, Jesus taught a radical command that would challenge everyone listening: He instructed them to **love their enemies** and do good to those who hate them.

“But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.” (Luke 6:27-28)

Ariel looked up, astonished. “Jesus is telling us to love and pray for the people who hurt us? That’s so hard.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus is teaching us that love should not be based on what others do to us. We are called to love even those who mistreat us because that’s how God loves. His love is **unconditional** and doesn’t depend on what we’ve done or who we are. He calls us to reflect that same **mercy** in our own relationships.”

Ariel was quiet for a moment, considering. “Loving our enemies doesn’t mean we agree with them or let them hurt us—it means we choose to love them, like Jesus loved us even when we were His enemies.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Jesus is showing us that **true greatness** in God’s Kingdom comes from showing **mercy** and **grace** to those who don’t deserve it. And when we love our enemies, we are acting like God, who loves us despite our flaws.”

Building on a Solid Foundation: Obedience Leads to Stability (Luke 6:46-49)

Finally, Jesus closed His sermon with a parable about building on a solid foundation. He likened those who heard His words and obeyed them to a man who built his house on a **rock**. When storms came, the house stood firm. But those who heard His words and didn’t obey were like a man who built his house on the **sand**, and when the storm came, the house was destroyed.

“Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that

house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.” (Luke 6:46-48)

Ariel smiled. “Jesus is saying that when we follow His teachings, we are building our lives on a **solid foundation**, one that will withstand the storms of life.”

“That’s right,” Ryan said. “Obeying Jesus and living according to His teachings gives us stability and strength, even when life gets tough. We can’t just **hear** His words; we need to **put them into practice**. When we do, our lives are built on the foundation of God’s truth, and nothing can shake us.”

Reflection: The Radical Call to Love and Obey

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, and the family sat quietly, reflecting on the teachings they had just witnessed. Ariel turned to her father, thoughtful. Alice, with Mr. Fluffernutter in hand, was practicing love and kindness with her toys.

“Jesus’ teachings in the **Sermon on the Plain** are so different from what the world teaches,” Ariel said. “He shows that being humble, loving our enemies, and obeying God’s Word is the way to real greatness in God’s Kingdom.”

“Yes,” Ryan said, “Jesus is calling us to live out God’s **love, mercy, and grace** in a world that often values power and success. When we live according to His teachings, we are building a life that can withstand any storm.”

Ariel smiled. “It’s not about what we have or how powerful we are—it’s about living like Jesus, loving others, and obeying God’s Word.”

“That’s exactly it,” Ryan said. “When we live according to Jesus’ teachings, we become a reflection of His **Kingdom**—a Kingdom built on mercy, love, and obedience.”

Takeaway: Life in God’s Kingdom

In Luke 6:17-49, Jesus reveals what life in God’s Kingdom looks like—**humble, merciful, and obedient**. Through the **Beatitudes**, He teaches that those who are poor, hungry, and persecuted are blessed, showing that God values humility and dependence on Him. Jesus calls us to **love our enemies**, show mercy, and build our lives on the **solid foundation** of His Word. These radical teachings challenge us to live in a way that reflects God’s love and grace, prioritizing mercy and obedience over legalism and self-righteousness. Jesus’ Kingdom is upside down from the world’s values, and by living His way, we become part of a lasting, unshakable foundation.