



# SPORTS IN FOCUS

*Christ's Message, Ministry, and Miracles*  
Luke 6:20-26 • Lesson Four

# ZOOM!

## READY

- Jesus ministry was full of wonderful teaching and miracles. His ministry goes on today in our lives too. Think back over your recent spiritual journey. Then describe at time when: You participated in a vital ministry and felt that God used you.

## SET

### Context of Luke 6-9

These next chapters in Luke record Christ's preaching, healing, and teaching. Beginning in 6:17, we find the so-called Sermon on the Plateau. The similarity to the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:1-7:29) is remarkable. It is possible that Jesus simply preached the same sermon on more than one occasion. It's more likely that these are different accounts of the same event. Luke's version is abbreviated. He likely omitted sections from the sermon that were uniquely Jewish since he was speaking to a Gentile audience.

### Keys to Text

*Gospel:* Literally, this word means "good news" or "good message," from the Greek word *euangelion*. Messengers bringing good news of victory in battle originally used this Greek term. In the New Testament it points to the good news of salvation. That is: Jesus Christ came to earth to abolish the power of sin by offering Himself as a perfect sacrifice on the cross.

## GO

### Read Luke 6:20-26

And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. Jesus Pronounces Woes "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. "Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. "Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. "Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets. • What stood out to you in the passage? How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words? What does this passage teach about being a disciple of Jesus? Is there some attitude to change?

## SPORTS IN FOCUS

A baseball pitcher has handed back the \$12 million he earned because he "didn't feel he was worth it." In a show of humility, Gil Meche gave the cash back to the Kansas City Royals after a poor performance last year. He only made nine starts all year without scoring a single win. Humility is seeing the contrast between what is perfect and our inability to achieve that perfection. Gil Meche's example of humility helps us see an athlete who recognizes his inability to earn his salary and refuses to accept it. When Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount, the entire crowd was stunned when he said, "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). His sermon set the standard of moral perfection so high that no one on earth could even come close to it. This is the virtue or character quality of true spiritual humility. A true "attitude fruit" of Christ-like humility begins with realizing that we are fallen sinners in desperate need of a Savior. The more we understand what Christ has done for us through His death on the cross in our place, the more the "action fruit" of humility will show itself in our lives.