

LIFE LESSONS – Making it Live

David Welsh | “The Different Life” | Luke 6: 20-26 | January 21-22, 2012

Compromise

When is compromise a good thing and when is it a bad thing? What does “compromise” mean? Are you willing to compromise on political issues? Moral issues? Honesty issues? What about Christian values? How might we compromise on someone else’s interpretation of Christian values? **Discuss:** How do you think that the churches in America might be ineffective because of the compromise by many Christians of their values? In what way are we accepting too many of the world’s values? **Share** how our lives and values are significantly different from the world around us. How are we set apart?

Transformation

Do you understand how certain worms transform into butterflies? It is a miraculous thing, but it happens every day. **Discuss** how this could be one of God’s demonstrations for our benefit that rebirth of a creature as a very different being is within His power. When Jesus told Nicodemus “You must be born again”, what did he mean? **Share** how you know you have really been born again and how it might be obvious to the world. What is different about your lifestyle?

Blessings

Do you want to be blessed? In what ways? Material goods? Physical attributes? Health? What does it mean to be blessed? Jesus said in Luke 6:20 & 21 that it was a blessing to be poor! Given a choice, I would like to pass on that one. **Discuss** why Jesus said this. How were His priorities focused upon the eternal, not the temporal? He was referring to spiritual poverty. Is it a reality that many times those with little of this world’s goods find it easier to realize their dependence upon God? **Share** some ways you recognize your total dependence upon God.

Persecution

For what would you be willing to be persecuted? Country? Family? Principles? Who wants to be persecuted? In Luke 6: 22-23, Jesus said “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”. Why? “Because great is your reward in Heaven”. **Discuss** some ways you might have been excluded, insulted, and rejected because Christ is Lord of your life.

Priorities

Who would not like to be wealthy, well fed, well housed and respected in your community? Yet Jesus says in Luke 6: 25-26, “Woe unto you.....” **Discuss:** Why would he say that? He said, “You have already received your comfort”. Does that mean that you can EITHER be comfortable in this world or in eternity, but not both? If your heart is set on Christ; and your energy, resources and time are invested in doing His will, then your reward is yet to come regardless of worldly comforts or the lack of them.

Written by Ed Hooper