

LESSON 4
UPSIDE DOWN
LUKE 6:12—8:3



1 If you were a detective checking out a person's values, what would you investigate? What would you collect as evidence?

2 According to the world's values, what brings happiness? What gives meaning to life?



Read Luke 6:12—8:3 and the following notes:

☐ 6:20–23 ☐ 6:21 ☐ 6:24 ☐ 6:26 ☐ 6:27 ☐ 6:35 ☐ 6:37, 38 ☐ 6:45
☐ 7:11–15 ☐ 7:44ff ☐ 8:2, 3

3 Whom does God bless, or who should rejoice (6:20–23)?

4 For whom are sorrows waiting (6:24–26)?

5 What actions did Christ tell his followers to take in loving others (6:27–42)?

6 To what kinds of people did Jesus minister (7:1—8:3)?

7 Why would Jesus’ words about blessings have been a surprise to the disciples?



8 In Luke 6 Jesus gave his disciples many specific instructions. How do these instructions differ from the ways people usually act?

9 Why would it be unusual for someone to reach out to a Roman officer, a widow, or an immoral woman, as Jesus did (Luke 7)?

At this point in his life, Jesus “had it all.” Crowds followed him. People shook their heads in amazement at his teaching. Almost everyone liked him. He was a genuine celebrity. According to all of the world’s values, he had a bright future. But then Jesus surprised everyone with remarkable statements and deeds reflecting what is really important in life. Blessings come to those who are poor, hungry, sad, and hated, he said—not to those who are rich, prosperous, and popular. He told his disciples that God wanted them to love their enemies and do good to them. He told them not to judge but to forgive. Then he demonstrated these values by reaching out to a Roman officer, a widow, an immoral woman, and others of low status. Jesus seldom told people what they expected to hear; his values opposed the world’s. But God’s values are right and true.

10 How do Jesus’ values compare to our world’s values today?



11 Describe a time when God gave you joy in difficult circumstances.

12 What people do you find it difficult to treat with kindness, compassion, or generosity (6:27–42)?

13 How can you reach out to people others have rejected, such as a person with AIDS, a former prisoner, or a disabled child?

14 In what ways does Jesus challenge your values (your sense of what's important)?

15 Name someone to whom you can demonstrate Christ's love (someone who doesn't like you, is a social misfit, or owes you something). How can you show that love this week?



A Who were the Jews' enemies in Jesus' day? Why was it difficult for the Jews to show love to their enemies (6:27–36)? What difficulties do you have showing love to your enemies?

B How can you acknowledge the truth about someone's sin without judging the person (6:37–42)? How can you help someone without being judgmental?

C What are some examples of "good fruit" (6:43–45)? What kind of "fruit" are you producing?

D What kind of person builds a "house without a foundation" (6:46–49)? What does Jesus identify as a solid foundation for our life? How can you build on this foundation?

E Why was Jesus amazed at the Roman officer's faith (7:1–10)? Why did Jesus heal the officer's slave? How does your faith compare with the officer's?

F Why did John the Baptist have doubts about Jesus (7:18–23)? What did John do about those doubts? What can you do when you're confused or have doubts about God?

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