

Sermon Luke 6:27-38
“Love, Do, Pray, Forgive.”
February 23, 2025

Welcome back this week, as we are again with Jesus in part 2 on level ground from the Sermon on the Plain. Quickly, during our time together the last time, Jesus began describing the blessings we experience when our hearts are tuned into God and our focus is on God's Kingdom. His blessings didn't make sense in the literal sense; you know when you are poor or hungry, rich or well-fed. We are blessed when we are sorrowful and doomed when we laugh. What? That doesn't make sense, Jesus, and if we are looking through the lens of a worldly filter, these blessings and woes do not make sense. What did we learn? Well, It isn't about having food or money or social approval with loads of friends or likes on our Facebook page. It is about what we place at the center of our lives. It is about what we give our attention to: Christ himself. I think about Charlie Hall's song "Center." Oh Christ, be the center of our lives, be the place we fix our eyes, be the center of our lives." Hall got it right, for we are blessed when we are God-centered, and we suffer whenever we are self-centered. When we focus on filling ourselves with worldly appetites, our attention turns in the wrong direction, eventually leading to spiritual emptiness. This is where we pick up with this week's reading, still on a level plain with Jesus, preparing ourselves under his teaching on how to live in God's kingdom, honor our Savior, and be called to serve our enemies without expecting anything in return.