

What Is The Bottom Line?

February 17, 2019 – Luke 6:12-13; 20; 23-24

“One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also designated as apostles. Looking at His disciples He said: Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.”

When using the phrase: “The Bottom Line”, from an earthly point of view, the Bottom Line is generally in reference to \$.

Today, as we look at these words of our Lord Jesus, the “Bottom Line” on a Spiritual plain is: When you die, will you be in heaven or in hell? When you take your last breath, do you believe in Jesus as your One and Only Savior from sin or not?”

Scripture is plain, clear and simple: *“He that believes and is baptized shall be saved, he who does not believe will be eternally condemned.”* (Mark 16:16)

“For God so loved the World, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

There is nothing hard about this, there is nothing to debate.

As I and my wife just recently returned from vacation, we saw many different people. People who were tall, people who were short. People who were narrow, and people who were wide. We saw male and female, young and old. We saw white people and black people and every shade in between. We saw and heard people speaking in various languages such as Spanish, Russian, German, French, English and others.

As a Pastor, as I saw all these different people, the question that I ask myself is: “How many of these people believe in Jesus as their One and Only Savior from sin, and how many do not?” How many will I meet again in heaven, and how many will I not meet in heaven?”

In the End, when the rubber hits the road, when you come to Your Last Day on this earth, When You and I or anyone die, the only thing that really matters is whether we wake up in heaven or in hell.

And so after Jesus is finished praying through the night and after picking the 12 disciples.

He instructs them with these Blessings and Woes. - 4 Blessings - 4 Woes.

One thing that we notice about these lists is that the 4 things that Jesus says are Blessings, are really things that in the eyes of the World they are bad. While on the other hand, the things that Jesus says are Woes, are really things that the world would say are good. Take note:

Blessed are the Poor Theirs is the Kingdom of God in Contrast to **Woe** to those who are Rich.

Does this mean that the poor will be in heaven and the rich will be in hell?

Of course not. Abraham was rich from both an earthly point of view as well as spiritually rich. Abraham believed God, and it was credited to Him as Righteousness.

Those Who recognize their Poor spiritual state and need for a Savior, in contrast to those who think they have everything they need and focus and pursue the things of this life at the expense of spending time with their Savior in His Word.

Blessed are You Who Hunger Now.

In Contrast to: **Woe** to those who are well fed.

Those who hunger for the Word of God and growing in the Lord Jesus as opposed to those who think they have enough. Sounds like a Confirmation Student who stops coming to worship the Lord and hear the Word of the Lord shortly after Confirmation Day.

Blessed are You Who weep: In Contrast to - **Woe** to you who laugh now.

As Christians we weep over what sin has done in the world and in our life. Sin has brought death and sorrow.

Blessed are you when you are excluded and insulted and rejected BECAUSE OF THE SON OF MAN.

In Contrast to -

WOE to those who are spoken well of by others.

And so, all the things that go wrong in your life, the things that cause you misery, keep in mind that there is nothing compared to the joys and glories of Heaven.

Heaven which is your free Gift of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (+).

AMEN