



Things to Talk About and Reflect Upon

"Blessings, Woes, and Pharisees"

Points from Sunday's Message

1. There is no Liberal Jesus. There is no Conservative Jesus. There is just Jesus.
2. We are called to care for the poor, feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and pray for the persecuted.
3. This passage should lead us to prayerful self examination, repentance, renewed resolve to follow Jesus and a lifestyle that fosters following Him.
4. Phariseism starts with a focus on the performance of others rather than my personal sanctification.

Key Verse:

*"Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said:
'Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.'"*

— Luke 6:20

Discussion Questions:

Kingdom Values vs. Cultural Values

Jesus teaches that the Kingdom of God often flips the world's values upside down — blessing the poor, hungry, and persecuted instead of the rich and comfortable.

Questions: How do you see the values of God's Kingdom clashing with the values of our culture today?

In what ways have you personally felt tension between living out Kingdom priorities and fitting into cultural expectations?

Further Reading: Matthew 5:1–12; Romans 12:1–2

No Liberal Jesus, No Conservative Jesus — Just Jesus

Pastor Jason said, "There is no liberal Jesus. There is no conservative Jesus. There is just Jesus."

Questions: Why is it so tempting for people to align Jesus with their political or cultural views?

How can we keep our loyalty centered on Jesus rather than on political or social identities?

Further Reading: Philippians 3:20; John 18:36

Caring for the Poor, Hungry, Hurting, and Persecuted

“We are called to care for the poor, feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and pray for the persecuted — even when we are those things as well.”

Questions: How does this call challenge your view of generosity and compassion?

What is one practical step your group could take this week to live out this calling?

Further Reading: James 2:5–17; Matthew 25:35–40; Proverbs 19:17

Spiritual Hunger and Poverty of Spirit

Jesus said, “Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled.” Pastor Jason compared this to hungering for Christ Himself.

Questions: What does it mean to be “poor in spirit” or to “hunger for God”? How can you cultivate that kind of spiritual hunger in your daily life?

Further Reading: Psalm 42:1–2; Matthew 5:3, 6

Avoiding the Pharisee in the Mirror

Pastor Jason warned that “Pharisaism starts with focusing on the performance of others rather than my personal sanctification.”

Questions: How can we recognize early signs of a Pharisaical heart in ourselves?

What helps you practice self-examination and repentance without slipping into legalism or shame?

Further Reading: Matthew 23:1–12; Psalm 139:23–24

Following Jesus When It Costs Something

“Are we willing to pay the cost of following Jesus? Are we willing to be hated by the world?”

Question: When have you faced (or feared) social, professional, or relational backlash because of your faith?

How does remembering Christ’s suffering and reward give you courage to persevere?

Further Reading: John 15:18–20; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12–14

Use these blended questions for deeper personal reflection, prayer, or small group discussion.