

# +WEEKLY SERMON

[communicate@blackburn.anglican.org](mailto:communicate@blackburn.anglican.org)



## The Sermon on the Plain

*Luke 6:17-26*

Fast and far – that’s how quickly and extensively the good news of Jesus is spreading. Our Bible reading tells us that a large crowd of disciples and a great number of other people from Judea, Jerusalem, Tyre and Sidon had all come to listen to Jesus.

Perhaps, they are drawn to Jesus because they’ve heard about how He has freed a man from an evil spirit or healed a man with leprosy. Maybe they have come to find out more about his announcement in the temple that He had come to bring good news for the poor, freedom for prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind, freedom for the oppressed and the year of the Lord’s favour.

Following being in the temple, Jesus has demonstrated how He is fulfilling the Old Testament’s prophecies. People have been healed, forgiven and set free.

Jesus now steps onto the plain and, in the midst of crowds of people, he gives a vision of God’s Kingdom with four promises and four warnings. Jesus’ words are radical. He turns the values of the world on its head and tells everyone that God is doing something new. Jesus is the fulfilment of God’s promises and this is good news for people.

For the poor, the hungry, those who weep, those who are hated, Jesus says that God blesses them and a great reward awaits them in heaven. What wonderful words. The people listening who felt the pain of poverty, loss, exclusion would probably have wept for joy knowing that someone knew the pain of their situation and was going to do something about it.

Turning the values of the world upside down and back to the way God intended brings sorrow for some. Jesus makes clear that for those who like things the way they are, sorrow awaits. God’s Kingdom is a just one.

At the end of Jesus’ sermon, He and His disciples continue to share the good news to those they meet. We only have to listen to the news today to know how much we, and our world, needs this good news.

In our Year of Prayer for Growth and Renewal, let us be encouraged by the good news of Jesus: praying for His Kingdom to come and His will be done and, also like Jesus and his followers, go and share this good news to those we meet.

**Joy Rushton, Being Witnesses Manager**

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES