



Pastor Hanke's Blog

February 17, 2019

Blessings and Woes

Bible Reference: Luke 6:17-26

My life as a kid was full of a bunch of woes. Woe—don't do this and woe—don't do that. It was exhausting to hear all the potential pitfalls in the world, and often times they came with little to no explanation. I try not to do the same thing to my kids, intentionally focusing on the blessings in life, and then providing explanations to the woes where I can. But sometimes proving explanations is exhausting.

Even though I try to focus them elsewhere, my kids still get to the “woe is me” stage. Some of my favorite comments I hear from them are: *My life is the worst; I never get anything; Why do I have to clean? My friends have parties and gifts better than mine.* Now, before you think I am throwing my kids under the bus, I have been there too with thoughts like: *Why is my kid sick again? Why can't I just get a car that has little to no issues?; etc.*

Our lists of woes and blessings can easily get mixed up. Watching how kids act and react is a reminder to us just how out-of-whack our priorities have become. In some ways we quickly fall back to our child-like mentality, focusing on the visual/physical woes we think we are experiencing. It is no wonder Jesus spends time working through a true definition of woes and blessings in Scripture.

In our reading from Luke this week, Jesus reveals that the woes we experience have nothing to do with the lack of something here on earth, but instead how what we do have is distracting us from His purpose and plan for us. It's a woe to those who miss the point—missing eternal life—even though they have a lot of stuff in this life. The blessings He speaks of is the grace received by those who are suffering. It is easy to see how quickly we can get this mixed up, so we will take time to break it down this Sunday.

God's Peace,
Pastor Will