

# Luke, Jesus: “Good News for the Poor”

## 1. Who are the poor?

**Read:** *Luke 4:18; Luke 6:20*

**Greek word:** *Ptōchoi* — economically and socially destitute, but also spiritually dependent.

### Discussion:

- How is "poor" more than just financial in Luke's Gospel?
  - What kinds of people might be “poor” in your community today?
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## 2. Why are they blessed?

**Read:** *Luke 6:20–23*

### Reflection:

- The poor are not blessed *because* they are poor, but because they are **open to God**, without illusions of self-sufficiency.
- They are **postured to receive the kingdom**.

### Discussion:

- What kind of blessing is Jesus promising here?
  - How does this compare with what society calls “blessed”?
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## 3. What are they released from?

**Read:** *Luke 4:18–19*

**Themes from Isaiah 61 & Jubilee:**

- **Prison, oppression, debt, blindness.**
- This is **spiritual, social, and economic bondage**.

### Discussion:

- What kinds of oppression do people experience today—externally and internally?
  - Do you think people know they need release?
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## 4. How are they released by Jesus?

**Read:** *Luke 5:12–13 (leper), 7:36–50 (sinner woman), 8:1–3 (women disciples), 19:1–10 (Zacchaeus)*

**Reflection:**

- Jesus releases by **healing, forgiving, dignifying, and restoring people to community.**
- His miracles are not just compassion—they are signs of the **new creation breaking in.**

**Discussion:**

- In what ways does Jesus' interaction feel both personal and systemic?
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## **5. A few Lukan stories of reversal**

- Explain how (almost) any narrative in Luke can be explained as a story of reversal
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## **6. What does it mean to be a citizen of this upside-down kingdom?**

**Read:** *Luke 6:24–26*

**Reflection:**

- Jesus contrasts blessings for the poor with **woes for the rich.**
- This kingdom **reverses expectations**—status, power, and wealth do not define your value.

**Discussion:**

- What might faithfulness look like in a world shaped by this kind of reversal?
- How can we personally and communally live out Jesus' good news to the poor?