

# Short Talk

(SHT138)

## God's upside down Kingdom

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ALL AGE WORSHIP  
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## SHORT TALK: “God’s upside down Kingdom”

- Aim of Short talk:** To challenge people with their attitude towards money.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Happiness, Money, Kingdom of God
- Biblical references:** Luke 6:17-26
- Lectionary:** Year C – The Third Sunday before Lent
- Props:** You will need the following coins:
- Two 2p coins
  - Two 20p coins
  - Two £1 coins

I have some money to give away this morning.

- Who would like some? (*Call forward 2 children to stand beside you*)

(*Give each child a 2p coin*)

Now I have given you both 2p. Will that make you happy? (*Receive responses*)

- How about if I give you both 20p? (*Give each child a 20p coin*)
- Will that make you happy? (*Receive responses*)

How about if I give you both £1? (*Give each child a £1 coin*)

- Will that make you happy? (*Receive responses*)

Imagine for a moment if I offered to give you a thousand pounds every week for the rest of your life?

- Do you think that would make you happy? (*Receive responses*)

You know most people if they were asked the question, “*What would make you happy?*” would include in their answer: “*Plenty of money.*”

Now not having enough money can cause huge stress if we cannot pay our bills or buy the food that we need,

- but how much money do we think would make us happy?
- Do we need to be rich to be really happy?

After Jesus had called together his team of disciples, He lay out the new rules for His team.

One of the things He said to them was this:

- *“Happy are you poor, the Kingdom of God is yours”* (Luke 6:20 Good News Version)

That sounds a bit upside down doesn't it?

- Normally people in Jesus' time thought that it was the rich who were happy, not the poor,
- and many of us in our country today would probably have the same attitude.

But Jesus was changing the “happiness rules” because His ways are different from our ways.

- Jesus said that true happiness is found in the Kingdom of God,
- where things are done in God's way.

True happiness is not found in money, which can come and go.

- True happiness is found in relationship with Jesus and with His Father.

True happiness is not found in money, which no matter how much you have can never deeply satisfy us.

- True happiness is found in a life following and serving the King of Kings.

In God's upside down kingdom the poor followers of Jesus are seen as the happy ones because they have the true riches of the Kingdom of God.

So today let Jesus challenge you about your attitude to money and what you think will make you happy,

- and trust Him that true happiness is found in the Kingdom of God.
- *(Send the children back to their seats with their coins)*