



April 2, 2017 - Pastor Bruce French

## **W**hy should believers refuse to give up?

### **Principle one:**

Believers should refuse to give up because they have an \_\_\_\_\_ . Luke 6:20

### **Application one:**

Consider the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Kingdom.

### **Principle two:**

Believers should refuse to give up because they will have \_\_\_\_\_ . Luke 6:21a

### **Application two:**

Consider the \_\_\_\_\_ of your soul.

### **Principle three:**

Believers should refuse to give up because they have \_\_\_\_\_ . Luke 6:21b

### **Application three:**

Consider the \_\_\_\_\_ of your emotions.

### **Principle four:**

Believers should refuse to give up because they have an \_\_\_\_\_ . Luke 6:22

### **Application four:**

Consider the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

## **TAKE HOME TRUTH**

When you are ready to \_\_\_\_\_, pause and remember your \_\_\_\_\_ . Luke 6:23a

### **Today's Core Belief:**

**Eternity:** "I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom."  
(From John 14:1-4)



## Deeper Connection Study

Luke reveals Jesus' choice of twelve disciples who he has designated as apostles. In the midst of his opponents seeking ways to discredit and destroy his ministry, Jesus prepares his followers for a life of ministry that may prove difficult. Yet these hardships are not without a divine reward.

*Today's Core Belief discussed: Eternity.*

### Read Luke 6:12-23 [vv. 12-16 par. Matt. 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19]

1. Why does Luke tell us about Jesus' all-night, mountain-top prayer vigil (v. 12)?
2. How unique and diverse is Jesus' group of twelve? Who are brothers or friends? How are opposing groups represented? What is the difference between disciples and Jesus' designation of apostles?
3. What is the scene after Jesus chooses the Twelve (vv. 17-19)? How is Jesus sought and what is his impact?
4. How is Luke's account of Jesus' Beatitudes different than Matthew's (vv. 20-23; cf. Matt. 5:3-12)? To whom does Jesus speak in Luke's account? Why is this important?
5. What particular blessings does Jesus give and how are these relevant for us today?
6. How does Jesus' promise of reward encourage you to persevere through difficult circumstances? In view of your present situation, can you "rejoice in that day and leap for joy" (v. 23)? Why or why not?

**PRAYER TO THE POINT:** Praise God that he empowers Christians to represent Jesus and minister in his name. Pray for fellow Christians persecuted for their testimony. Ask God to give you joy as you live for him and to remind you of his reward for your faith.

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Jesus

Luke 6:12-23



Let's be honest, sometimes it is hard to hang in there as Christians. First, there is the obvious opposition we feel from the world. In today's culture if we take a stand on Biblical principles and voice our convictions, we are accused of being bigots and intolerant. Next, there are the spiritual battles that we face each day because we have an adversary, the devil, who as Peter declared, wants to destroy us. Then, if all of this were not hard enough, we have our flesh to battle, and sometimes we can be our own worse enemy. These realities would probably not be so bad if it happened occasionally, but as you know, it is a daily occurrence. Most of the time we endure the trials and difficulties, but there are days when even the most mature Christians want to throw in the towel and call it quits.

So what do you do when you are having one of those days, or one of those years for that matter? How do you persevere so that you don't give up and remain faithful? Once again Jesus has the solution!