



# BANORA POINTER

Sunday 16 February 2025



**A message from  
Rev. Aaron Moad**



## Living in the Upside-Down Kingdom

Today I would like to share some thoughts on a powerful and challenging passage of Scripture, Jesus' 'Sermon on the Plain' also known as 'The Beatitudes' in **Luke 6:17-26**—it is a message that turns everything we know upside down.

In this passage, Jesus makes a series of shocking statements:

- The poor are blessed.
- The hungry will be filled.
- Those who weep will laugh.
- The persecuted will be honoured.

And in contrast:

- The rich will be deprived.
- The full will go hungry.
- Those who laugh now will weep.
- The praised will be rejected.

At first glance, these words don't make sense. **How can poverty be a blessing? How can hunger lead to satisfaction?** Yet, this is the radical message of Jesus—the announcement of **the upside-down kingdom**.

### 1. True Blessing Is Found in Dependence on God

The world tells us that blessing comes from wealth, success, and comfort. But Jesus says true blessing is found in **dependence on God**. The poor, the hungry, and the broken hearted know they need Him. Their emptiness creates space for His fullness.

If we are honest, self-sufficiency can be a spiritual danger. When life is easy, we may forget how desperately we need God. But Jesus invites us to **live with open hands, trusting Him completely**.

What are you depending on today? Are you depending on finances, status, or comfort? Or are you depending on God alone?

### 2. The World's Values Are Not God's Values

Jesus warns that the things the world celebrates—wealth, comfort, and popularity—can be stumbling blocks to true faith. Why? Because they **create a false sense of security**.

It is not wrong to have resources, but if our trust is in **what we own rather than in the One who provides**, we are in danger of loving wealth, status and comfort more than God or our neighbour.

God's kingdom operates by different values. In His economy:

- The greatest are the least.
- The humble are admired.
- The weak are made strong.

Are we living by God's values or the world's?

### 3. Following Jesus Means Embracing a Different Way of Life

Jesus tells us that following Him will not always be easy. In fact, it may bring rejection, suffering, or loss. But He also promises that those who endure **will receive a far greater reward than this world could ever offer, His presence**.

Many Christians throughout history have given up comfort, security, and even their lives to follow Jesus. Why? Because they knew that **what they gained in Christ was far greater than what they lost**.

The world may call us foolish for choosing faith over fortune, humility over power, and service over status. But we do not live for this world—we live for the Kingdom of God.

### Will You Embrace the Upside-Down Kingdom?

The question we ask today is this: **Will we embrace the values of Christ's kingdom, even when they seem upside down?**

- Will we trust in God rather than in material wealth?
- Will we live by His values instead of chasing the world's approval?
- Will we stand firm in faith, even when it costs us?

Jesus calls us to something greater than earthly success—He calls us to **a life of eternal significance**. May we have the courage to follow Him, no matter the cost.

Grace and peace  
Rev. Aaron

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#### Acknowledgement of country

Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

#### Today's Bible Readings

**Jeremiah 17:5-10**

**Luke 6:17-26**

## What's Happening This Week

<b>Today</b>	Chaira Companions 1.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	Mainly Music 9.30am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Prayer meeting 8am Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am
<b>Thursday</b>	Men's Bible Study 8.30am KYB (CWCI) 10am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm
<b>Friday</b>	Craft Club 9am
<b>Saturday</b>	Men's Breakfast 8am

## Other upcoming events for your diary

<b>Mainly Music</b>	25 February 9.30am
<b>Book Swap, Coffee &amp; Chat</b>	26 February 9.30am
<b>Pastoral Care Meeting</b>	28 February 10.15am
<b>Craft Club</b>	7 March 9am
<b>Elder's Meeting</b>	11 March 4pm
<b>Fellowship Lunch</b>	12 March 12 noon
<b>Chaira Companions</b>	16 March 12.30pm
<b>Men's Breakfast</b>	29 March 8am
<b>Church Council Meeting</b>	8 April 7pm (incls AGM)

## Church Roster

**Today**                      **Next Sunday**

Duty Elder	Elizabeth	Robyn
Organist/Pianist	Jill & Mel	Audrey
Greeters	Robyn & Joan C	Hazel & Joyce
Bible Readers	Robyn & Audrey	Dudley & Walter
Prayers for Others	Audrey	Elizabeth
Morning Tea	Hazel & Lorraine S	Mary & Pat
Hall Set Up	Marshall	Brian
Sound Room	Elizabeth	Elizabeth
Cleaning	Lorraine W & Helene	Craft Club

*If you are unable to do your roster, please organise a swap **AND** let Janice know ASAP .*

## Men's Breakfast

Meeting for breakfast at 8am on Saturday 22 February at the Twisted Fig Café (near Bunnings in Tweed Heads South). **All men are welcome.**

## Book Swap, Coffee & Chat

Just a little reminder that there is a **book swap, coffee & chat** event held every Wednesday from 9.30-11am in the church hall. Everyone is welcome, so please come and bring your friends and neighbours. If you have any queries, please talk to Robyn.

## Pastoral Care Meeting

Please note that the next Pastoral Care team meeting is on Friday 28 February commencing at 10.15am. Please talk to Jan if you have any queries.

## Milk Bottle lids for children in PNG

The Probus Club of Hastings Point Tweed Coast is collecting milk bottle lids for Children in Papua New Guinea. The lids are turned into modest toys for the children who have nothing to play with. There is a container in the foyer to collect them. For more information please see Jill Thompson.

## There Is Support Available

If you or someone you know is in need of help or support please let us know and how we can help by calling either;  
Rev. Aaron: 0411 325 527

## Offerings

As the Body of Christ here at Banora Point, there are many ways we can contribute to Christ's ongoing mission. Volunteering in local community groups is one way we can be the presence of Christ sharing the Gospel in action in our community. Another important way we can contribute to the mission of Christ at Banora Point Uniting Church is financially. The offering enables the Uniting Church to have a continued presence in Banora Point, it allows us to run our current outreach programs and will help us meet the changing needs of our local community in the future. Our offerings are received physically during the Worship Service every week or if you prefer you can choose to give electronically, directly into our account. You can do this by direct debit or at your local Commonwealth Bank branch. Please contact Neil Rackham if you need any assistance.

Banora Point Uniting Church Bank details are:

Account Name: The Uniting Church in Australia Banora Point Church (Note: Your Bank website may limit the number of characters you can put into the account name box so "The Uniting Church in Aust" is OK)

**BSB No:** 062 611 **Account No:** 10120762