

WEEK 5: GUIDELINES FOR THE LIFE OF A DISCIPLE (LUKE 6:20-49)

Catching Up (6:1-19)

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath (6:1-11)

Jesus is worth following. He is the Lord and King of all.

People have a tendency to elevate rituals (or traditions that develop out of something good) to the same level as decrees from God.

Jesus demonstrates in two stories that he is the king (Lord) over even the most treasured/most sacred of religious expressions: the Jewish Sabbath.

Example 1: Harvesting on the Sabbath (6:1-5)

Example 2: Healing on the Sabbath (6:6-11)

What it all means

Jesus was accumulating enemies among the religious leaders. He was **reorienting their worldview** and they didn't like it. His followers should expect opposition as well.

- If you're a practicing Christian/disciple of Jesus, then you **will** face times of opposition and difficulty along the way.
- (In fact, if you *don't* get any opposition in this world, you need to ask yourself if you're really following Jesus!).

The Calling of the Twelve (6:12-19)

Rejecting our Natural Impulses (6:20-26)

Blessings (Beatitudes) (6:20-23)

Luke 6:20 (ESV) And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

21 "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

22 "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! 23 Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

The Chart

| Blessed are you who are... | (For ...) |
|---|-----------|
| (v. 20) | |
| (v. 21a) | . |
| (v. 21b) | . |
| (v. 22) When people abuse you, revile you, etc. on account of the name of Jesus | (v. 23) |

Questions:

1. **Who** does Jesus call blessed?

2. **Why** do you think most people try to *escape* these states (being poor, being sad, etc)?

3. When facing these struggles (poverty, hunger, sadness, persecution), **how** should the Christian **respond**?

What principles should we remind ourselves?

Woes and warnings (6:24-26)

Definition: A “woe” is a declaration of _____ **judgment**.

Luke 6:24 (ESV) “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

25 “Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry.

“Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep.

26 “Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus declares **woes** on these individuals? Is anything wrong with being rich? Anything wrong with laughing? Anything wrong with people speaking well with you?

2. If this **isn't** what we are to pursue/how we are to live, **what should our mindset be?**

3. Can you find one common characteristic among all these “states” (rich, full, laugh, etc.)? Why do you think pursuing this is **inherently** foolish?

Embracing Jesus’ Value System [Building a Disciples’ Value System] (6:27-36)

If you’re going to live out the radical change of being a Christian in the world today, you’re going to have to see the world a little differently.

Radical changes in action (for living with others).

(6:27-31)

Luke 6:27 (ESV) “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. 29 To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. 30 Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. 31 And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

The Chart

List the actions (and recipients of the actions) that a disciple of Jesus should do:

| Action | Recipient |
|--------|--|
| | Your enemies |
| | To those who hate you |
| | The ones who curse you |
| | Those who abuse you |
| | The one who strikes you on the cheek |
| | The one who takes away your cloak ⁸ |
| | To the ones who begs from you |
| | The one who takes away your goods. |

This can all be summed up in the golden rule: Luke 6:31:

“And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.”
(Luke 6:31 ESV)

Can you think of how this might affect the people that “abuse” you? **Read Romans 12:18-21** and note how this passage contributes to this question.

“If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”
(Rom 12:18–21 ESV)

⁸ A “cloak” (an ἱμάτιον) was the typical outer garment or long coat—a generic word for clothing. On the other hand, a “tunic” (a χιτῶν) was the lower garment worn next to the skin (like an undergarment).

Radical changes in mindset (for living with others).

(6:32-36)

Christians are supposed to be *different* from the rest of the world—not because Christians are *odd* or *strange*, but because they have a different *value system*.

Luke 6:32 (ESV) “If you **love** those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you **do good** to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you **lend** to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.

35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and **your reward will be great**, and you will be **sons of the Most High**, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

What truths ought Christians to **recognize** and **internalize** in order to live as true disciples of Jesus?

