

Our goal in studying the Bible is two-fold. One part of the goal as we read is to engage with our **mind**, to grow in our knowledge of who God is as he has revealed himself in his word. The other part of our goal is to engage with our **heart**, by responding to God as we read with our love, praise, gratitude, confession, needs, questions, and desires.

Engaging with our mind *and* heart as we seek the help of the Holy Spirit helps us grow in an intimate relationship with God through Jesus our Savior as we see him more clearly, know him better and love him more.

## Day 1- Read Luke 6

- How is God revealed in this chapter? What is he like? Who is Jesus shown to be? What is he like?

Pray: Spend time in adoration and thanksgiving.

- What is human nature shown to be like in this chapter? Is this true of you in your life right now?

Pray: Spend time in confession and repentance.

- What does this passage of Scripture show that you need from God? How does your heart need to move to align with what you see in Scripture? Is there something you need to believe? Is there action you need to take?

Pray: Spend time asking God for what you need to live for him.

Meditation: *Luke 6: 35-36 "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. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."*

## Day 2- Luke 6:1-11

**Scholar's Note:** "The Sabbath was originally given by God in the Mosaic law to be a day of rest, refreshment, and worship for His people (Ex. 20: 8- 11). But by the first century, it had

accumulated an enormous number of extrabiblical restrictions and regulations, so much so that it had become the most oppressive and burdensome day of the week.”<sup>1</sup>

1. The disciples were not breaking the Mosaic Law by plucking and eating the grain; they were violating the added restrictions of the Pharisees. Why was this so offensive to the Pharisees?
2. What does Jesus mean by saying he is “lord of the Sabbath” in verse 5? (See Ex. 20:1, 8-11 for help)
3. Explain how Jesus demonstrates what God’s priority is in verses 9 and 10.
4. What did the Pharisee’s irrational rage reveal about their hearts and the religion they practiced?



The rage the Pharisees felt because of the compassionate act of Jesus is a very ugly picture of their legalism. They justified their lack of love and compassion by the keeping of their man-made rules. In their minds, keeping their rules made up for not loving the man. Their legalistic lifestyle made it possible for them, in their corrupted thinking, to ignore God’s command to act justly and love kindness and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8). Reflect on the following thoughts:

- ❖ How do you try to make up for not doing something you know God wants you to do by doing something else you consider good?
- ❖ How does this kind of legalism (following your own set of rules to make up for not following God’s true commands) limit holiness?

- ❖ Spend time in prayer and confession asking God to reveal any legalistic ways of thinking that live in your heart.

### Day 3- Luke 6:12-26

#### Scholar's Note:

**Disciple-** is a student, follower, or learner. "In Greek and Jewish culture prominent rabbis, orators, philosophers, or teachers would attract followers, who would travel with them from place to place." <sup>2</sup>

**Apostle-** refers to a messenger, ambassador, or representative invested with the full authority of the one who sent him. <sup>3</sup>

5. It was time for Jesus to choose the men who would be an integral part in God's plan in accomplishing redemption and spreading the gospel after Jesus went back to heaven. He would choose twelve men out of all of his followers. What are the implications of the fact that Jesus prayed all night before he made his decision?
6. In verses 17-19 Luke gives us a summary of Jesus' ministry so far. Two things about Jesus stand out—his popularity and his power. Write down everything you see related to these.
7. Spiritually speaking, describe those who are blessed (those who are saved by grace and made righteous through faith in Jesus). (vs.20-21)
8. How are Christians hated, excluded, reviled, and spurned as evil in our culture?

-What is to be our response to that kind of treatment?

-How can we make sure we are not being hated because we are obnoxious Christians?

-If being hated and spurned as evil on account of Jesus should elicit such an extreme response in us because of the reward we will receive, what does that say about the reward?

Picture and Ponder: “The world does not understand the Gospel of grace, in which holy living is the result of humble, grateful joy, not a way to earn heaven. The world therefore sees all righteous living as *self*-righteousness and bigotry. We should not be surprised at this (2 Timothy 3:12), but we should also undermine this false narrative by living lives of humility, forgiveness and sacrificial service to others.

[Pray along these lines] Lord, you have said that anyone who lives a godly life will be persecuted. Don't let me be so cowardly that I never take any heat for my faith. But don't let me actually fall into the self-righteousness and hypocrisy that merits disdain. Amen.”<sup>4</sup>

9. In verses 24-26 what are the warnings to those who have only invested in the world and all it has to offer?

Scholar's Note: “...in Jewish culture the wealthy were thought to have the inside track to heaven.”<sup>5</sup>

10. What rewards do those who are saved experience?

For Discussion: Why might it be easier for someone who is physically poor and hungry and sorrowful to come to Jesus?



Jesus' message was for all people, but he especially taught and ministered to those who were physically poor, hungry, and grief stricken. The people in society who were marginalized, ignored and mistreated, Jesus valued, included and loved.

You do not enter the kingdom of God by virtue of being poor, but being poor does not exclude you from inheriting the kingdom of God like it excludes you from the good things of this world.

Jesus reveals the reality of his kingdom with a whole new perspective. His kingdom is not of this world and those who have received it did not do so by natural, worldly ways. It is not for those who are self-sufficient, self-righteous and self-satisfied. By the grace of God we come to Jesus poor- with nothing of worth to offer him, we come hungry- empty and longing for sustenance, we come sorrowful- grief stricken over our sin.

Reflect on these thoughts:

- ❖ There's nothing wrong per se with being rich, satisfied, and happy. But when you find your satisfaction and security in money, food and pleasure then there is a problem. Where are you tempted to find your satisfaction, security and contentment?
  
- ❖ How are you different than the world in your handling of ...
  - money?
  - time?
  - pleasure (food, entertainment)?

#### Day 4- Luke 6:27-36

In the kingdom Jesus is building, he calls his true followers to a radically different way of life.

11. How is the lifestyle Jesus commands his genuine followers to live out in verses 27-34 radically different from the way the world lives?

12. Why is this kind of love that Jesus is describing evidence of a transformed heart and a witness to unbelievers?

Picture and Ponder: "If we will put God back in the Golden Rule, we will see that it is not a bland bit of moral counsel intended to improve us slightly. It is a radical way of living that can be

followed only by those who daily experience the infinitely great generosity of God in their own lives.”<sup>6</sup>

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

*Romans 5:5b “...God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”*

-How is this kind of love, that is so unnatural to us humanly speaking, possible?

*Colossians 1:20-22 “and through him [Jesus] God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross. This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.*

-How did Jesus demonstrate the kind of love he was calling his followers to?

### 13. What attributes in verses 35 and 36 make us look most like our Father?



Loving, blessing and praying for our enemies is a supernatural act. It is not something we even desire to do, let alone are capable of carrying out *if* we desired to. It is only because we are in Christ and He is in us that we can think of loving like this. Yet as God supplies the power and desire it is we who are doing it. John Piper calls it “acting the miracle”.

Paul says, “I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.” (1 Cor.15:10)

As we step out in faithful obedience, depending on God to supply the grace, desire and power to love our enemies, God works in us, molding us to look like him.

- ❖ Is there someone who hates you, someone you consider your enemy? Maybe it’s an extended family member, or a difficult neighbor, or maybe it’s someone who always criticizes you. It might just be a bad-mannered driver on the freeway or a rude checker at the store. Instead of being offended at the rude checker, bless them. Instead of cursing the guy on the freeway who cuts you off, say a prayer for him. Think of something good you can do to the person who hates you, and then do it.
  
- ❖ Depend on this promise: “*God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.*” 2 Corinthians 9:8

Day 5- Luke 6:37-49

14. Jesus goes on in verses 37-38 to describe what the spirit of his true followers looks like. What kind of people are true followers of Jesus?

For Discussion: How is having a judgmental, condemning disposition different than condemning sin?

Picture and Ponder: “Judgmentalism is an unwitting revelation of one’s own soul, because people rush to condemn their own sins in others.”<sup>7</sup>

15. Throughout this chapter Jesus has been teaching what it looks like to be a genuine disciple of his. Jesus’ true followers are aware of their spiritual need, sorrowful over their sin, exhibiting love and mercy toward their enemies, not arrogantly judgmental, but forgiving, and generous. True followers begin to look like Jesus. In verses 39-42 Jesus is warning against following false teachers. What do false teachers look like in these verses?

16. What reveals the true nature of the heart according to verses 45?

17. What is the mark of someone who truly has Jesus as their Lord according to verse 46?

One Thing: Look back over this week’s study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

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<sup>1</sup> MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series) (Kindle Locations 7643-7647). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Keller, Tim with Kathy Keller. (2015) The Songs of Jesus. Viking Publishers

<sup>5</sup> MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series) (Kindle Locations 7643-7647). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

<sup>6</sup> Stephen Witmer, article- Put God Back in the Golden Rule

<sup>7</sup> Hughes, R. Kent. *Luke, That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word series*, (Crossway, Wheaton Ill. 2015),p.239

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