



## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

---

### LESSON 5 – STUDY QUESTIONS LUKE 6:12-49

#### DAY ONE

1. Of the stories in Lesson 4 (Chapters 5:1-6:11), was there something new that you learned from your reading of the chapters, the commentary, or from the Spiritual Reflection?

#### Read Luke 6:12-19

2a. In the last lesson, Jesus healed the man with a withered hand on the Sabbath, thereby angering the Pharisees. As today's lesson begins, once again we see the special way in which Jesus kept his peace of mind in stormy times. Record verse 12.

b. Do you have a special place where you can spend quiet time with God? Where do you go to pray alone?

3a. When day came and while they were still apparently up on the mountain, Jesus called his disciples and chose 12 of them to be His apostles (verse 13). Of the twelve apostles, there were some duplicate names. Record (after the following names) how Luke distinguishes them in verses 14-16.

Simon

James

Simon

Judas

Judas

b. List the other apostles.

**NOTE:** Here is a mnemonic device to learn the names of the apostles by heart: "Bart and John fill Tom's mat with 2 James, 2 Judes and 2 Simons."

4a. Look up the words disciple and apostle and record some differences here.

b. After choosing his apostles, Jesus came down from the mountain with them and stood on a level place. Who was with them and from where did they come (verse 17)?

**NOTE:** Luke mentions that part of the crowd came from Tyre and Sidon, which is in present day Lebanon. Although not part of Israel in Christ's time, it had been promised to Joshua (Moses' successor as leader of Israel) as part of Israel's inheritance ([Joshua 13:6](#)). Jesus intended to reunite all of ancient Israel in His Kingdom, eventually extending the Kingdom to all mankind, as we learned in [Acts 1:8](#) ("you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth").

5a. Why had so many people come to see Jesus (first part of verse 18)?

b. We learn in the second half of verse 18 that those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. What were those in the crowd trying to do and what was the reason?

6. **CONNECTION:** Whatever our religion, whether we are Catholic, Protestant, Muslim, Buddhist, or agnostic, we are all searching to be loved, to be touched by the divine, to be cured of our empty hearts, and ailing bodies. Jesus touched the hurting hearts of the crowds with His beautiful teachings and healed their hurting bodies with His powerful touch. Sometimes we, too, are also able to communicate God's love through a loving, physical touch. A warm hug - a pat on the back - a grasp of the hand. Think of a time when touch enabled you to communicate Christ's love or healing and share some thoughts or your story with your small group.

Read and record Mark 10:16 and begin your prayer today thanking God for His warm and healing love and for the touch of those we love.

## **DAY TWO**

**Read Luke 6:20-26**

7a. In today's lesson we hear the first part of Jesus' "Sermon on the Plain," which parallels Jesus' Sermon on the Mount recorded in the Gospel of Matthew. Jesus began by telling the crowd who will be blessed in life and how they will be blessed. Record the remainder of each of the following "blessed" statements in verses 20 and 21:

Blessed are you who are poor

Blessed are you who are hungry now

Blessed are you who weep now

b. Briefly comment on which of these three is your favorite "blessed" verse and for what reason.

8a. In verse 22 Jesus describes four more terrible situations which His disciples will endure but from which they will be blessed. Name them here.

b. What does Jesus tell them to do when they are treated badly, and why (beginning of verse 23)?

9. As verse 23 continues, Jesus added, "for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets." It appears to refer to the Israelites, who in the Old Testament turned away from their faith and ridiculed or tortured the prophets who spoke the word of God. Read the following and record one of these instances.

2 Chronicles 36:16

Nehemiah 9:26

Jeremiah 38:6

10a. Verses 24-26 contain what are commonly referred to as the "Woe Statements", or curses of those who were successful in the world of Caesar. Fill in the remainder of the first two woe statements of Jesus:

But woe to you who are rich

Woe to you who are full now

11. Continue filling in the remainder of the woe statements contained in verses 25 and 26:

Woe to you who are laughing now

Woe to you when all speak well of you

12. CONNECTION: In this week's passage, we are presented with the challenges of "raw" Christianity. We learn that in God's kingdom to simply be rich, well fed, and well regarded can be bad; and, conversely, to be poor, hungry, weeping, and hated can be good. No wonder it is called the Upside Down Kingdom! Although it is perplexing, through God's grace we learn how our suffering, which exists in every human life, can co-exist in God's kingdom of love and grace. In fact, we can see that through suffering, God's plan for our happiness is often fulfilled. Give an example to your small group of how some blessings have come true in your life through sadness, poverty or hunger, or deprivation of any kind.

Read and record the second phrase in 2 Corinthians 12:9 and write a prayer today asking God for strength, acceptance and obedience in your Christian life."

### DAY THREE

Read Luke 6:27-35

13a. In today's lesson Jesus told His disciples what to do to fulfill God's will in His kingdom. Whom does Luke tell us He was addressing, according to the first part of verse 27, and who do you think this represents?

b. What four things does Jesus command in the last part of verse 27 and in verse 28? (Good memory verse)

14. In his kingdom of love, Jesus then gives two specific examples of ways to return bad behavior. Finish the following phrases from verse 29.

If anyone strikes you on the cheek,

and from anyone who takes away your coat

15. Jesus then speaks more generally, saying: "Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again." How does he sum up these statements in verse 31?

**THINK:** In *Les Misérables*, when Jean Valjean abused the hospitality of the Bishop by stealing his silver, the Bishop responded by offering him more silver rather than pressing charges. This radical act of loving changed the life of Jean Valjean forever.

16. In verses 32-34 Jesus asks what good it accomplishes if you simply love those who love you, are good to those who are good to you, or lend to those from whom you hope to get something back. He tells us that even sinners do that! Record what He DOES expect of us in verse 35.

17. Jesus promised a great reward to those who love as He loves. What is the characteristic of the Most High which they will inherit as "children of the Most High"?

18. CONNECTION: There is a commercial greeting card that says on the front, "Never hold a Grudge," with the picture of a grey shaggy creature. When you open the card, it says inside, "They shed terribly!" Loving your enemies, praying for those who abuse you ... these are not easy tasks. But we know that this is the way to peace and happiness. Jesus understood the corrosive effects that anger and bitterness have on our souls. We live in God's kingdom

of love by opening our hearts to our “enemies,” difficult as it is. Share with your group an instance in which you put aside your hesitations, got over your pain and reached out to forgive an “enemy.” What love did you receive as a result?

Abraham Lincoln said: “Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?” Write a prayer today asking God to bless your enemies.

#### **DAY FOUR**

**Read Luke 6:36-38**

19a. As today's lesson begins, Jesus told His disciples to imitate their heavenly Father in a certain character trait. Record his words from verse 36.

b. As sinners, we depend on God’s mercy for our salvation. Look up the following verses and record one of them here. Remember to praise Him each day for His great mercy!

2 Samuel 24:14

Psalms 86:5

Psalm 145:8-9

Titus 3:5

20a. In the beginning of verse 37, Jesus forbade two things. Fill out the remainder of the phrase which gives the resulting reward for each.

Do not judge,

do not condemn

b. In essence, Jesus is expounding mercy in all situations, even to those who hate us or would injure us. How does this logic work? Try to explain why this happens.

21. In the next two phrases in verses 37 and 38, Jesus commanded two things. Fill out the remainder of the phrase which gives the result of each.

Forgive

give

22. We can never "outgive" God. Record how Jesus promised that our heavenly Father will reward us when we give to others, from verse 38.

23. The measure in one's lap that Jesus promises refers to a pouch that could be used to carry grain. If the grain ran over the edge, then the buyer knew he had a full and honest amount. Verse 38 ends with the well-known phrase "for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." Rewrite God's memorable promise of His gift to us in language that would be better understood in today's world.

24. CONNECTION: In today's lesson Jesus asks us to practice mercy - often defined as benevolence, compassion, forgiveness, the refusal to judge others. Mercy can also be a blessing, or a fortunate situation. The mother of a serial murder victim was able to forgive her daughter's killer when she realized that the ground at the foot of the Cross is flat. While she showed mercy, she also received mercy - the relief from the pain of hatred. She saw that no one of us stands higher than the other in God's sight. We are all sinners begging for God's mercy. What does mercy "look like" to you? Briefly describe an incident in which you offered or received mercy.

Shakespeare, the great bard, could describe so well our dependence on God for His mercy and our duty to practice mercy to others. Read this passage from the Merchant of Venice, Act 4, and thank God for his great mercy.

"The quality of mercy is not strained. It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath. It is twice blessed: It blesseth him that gives and him that takes. Consider this - that in the course of justice none of us should see salvation. We do pray for mercy, and that same prayer doth teach us all to render the deeds of mercy."

## DAY FIVE

Read Luke 6:39-42

25. In today's lesson, Jesus continued His Sermon on the Plain. In verse 39 Jesus gave us a simple parable involving a question and an answer. Record it here.

26. In verse 40 Jesus says "A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher." We will become like those we follow, so we must choose good teachers. The Gospels of Matthew and John contain similar concepts. Record one of these.

Matthew 10:24

John 13:16

27. Next Jesus asked two questions. First he asked, "Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye?" Secondly he asked, "How can you say to your neighbor, 'Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye'?" How could this be said in our own words today? (Begin by saying, "Jesus asks us to ...")

28. What did Jesus say to the hypothetical person who was so worried about the speck in his neighbor's eye (end of verse 42)?

29. CONNECTION: In this week's passage Jesus used a colorful image to describe two kinds of hypocrites. First, He spoke of the "speck inspector" - one who is always ready to give a detailed analysis on how others go wrong. Secondly, he criticized the "log-eye" - one who simply fails to notice the huge flaws in their own behavior. Have you ever been a "log-eye," criticizing a friend or family member only later to regret it, perhaps because you realized that you were overlooking your own sinfulness, or that the greater fault was yours? Or conversely, have you been the subject of unjust criticism by a "speck inspector" and silently turned the other cheek? Share an example of either with your small group.

Read and record John 8:7 and begin your prayer today asking that we learn to look at each other with compassion rather than judgment.



**DAY SIX**

**Read Luke 6:43-49**

30a. As today's lesson begins, Jesus began to preach about accountability. In verse 43 He says, "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit." Record His conclusion at the beginning of verse 44.

b. The people in Jesus' time had no use for brambles and thorns, whereas fruit such as figs and grapes were highly prized. How does Jesus contrast the two groups at the end of verse 44?

31a. Similarly, what will the good and bad persons produce and how (verse 45)?

b. What does the phrase "good treasure of the heart" mean to you?

32. Again, Jesus shows how you will reveal your inner thoughts by your words and deeds. What is Jesus' conclusion from the end of verse 45?

33. What important question did Jesus ask in verse 46?

34a. In verse 47 Jesus gave an example of the type of person who "comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them." Describe what that man does from the beginning of verse 48.

b. When a flood arose, what happened and why?

35a. According to the first sentence of verse 49, what does the person do who "hears but does not act"?)

b. What happens when the river burst against that house according to the end of verse 49?

36. CONNECTION: In the television drama, “House of Cards,” the main character (Frank), is a powerful official, who cruelly and efficiently exacts revenge upon his enemies for a past wrongdoing. A life built on such a purpose is a house of cards, not built on a strong foundation; we can tell just from the title that "Frank" will come to a bad end. In today’s passage Jesus warned us that when we construct our lives on sand - whether it be riches, popularity, fame, power, or revenge - we will not only lose our house, but that we will lose it in a great catastrophe. Describe what you think contributes to the strong foundation of a Christian life.

Many songs have been written on this passage. Read the first words of My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less (Edward Mote, c. 1834) and start your prayer thanking God for being your strong and everlasting foundation!

“My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly trust in Jesus’ Name. On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.”

After completing this lesson, read pages 43-47 in the *The Gospel According to Luke* by Michael F. Patella, O.S.B. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

©Copyright 2015. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study

[thecornerstonescripturestudy.org](http://thecornerstonescripturestudy.org)