**Luke**

**Luke 6**

**Intro:** Anyone ever think you are one thing but find out you are viewed completely differently? Anyone hungry? What do you do when you’re hungry? **So is life what you expected it to be? Are you where you planned 5 years ago? Life has a way of not going the way we think it should. The world thinks things should be one way but Jesus has another idea.**

**BL: Your relationship with Jesus should cause your life to look radically different than a life without Jesus.**

**Outline:**

Catch up from last week. We aren’t going to read every verse today, but we will run over things.

Jesus spends this chapter encouraging us in some ways that should help us live out our lives in a practical way. This passage is all about practical Christian living.

* Jesus begins the passage by talking about the Sabath and challenging the religious leaders and their false thoughts on the Sabbath. God set aside the Sabbath day as a day of rest and worship. It’s definitely important but the Jewish people took it to the extreme thinking that made them good followers of God.
* Jesus then picks out His 12 disciples who will follow and minister with Him. He works with these guys for 3 years to get them ready to be the early leaders of the church. Discipleship, walking with people takes time. You don’t just lead someone to Christ and drop them it’s your responsibility to train them and work with them. Even if it takes 3 years.
* We see a crowd that brings their needs to Jesus. Needs to have demons cast out and to be physically healed. When they needed something they sought out Jesus, do we do that as well?

1. **Characteristics of Christ followers (20-26)**

* Jesus drops a bombshell saying here. Why is that well Jesus basically challenges everything we know and think about life here. Everyway a person would normally think about life Jesus is telling them they have it wrong. He is challenging our thinking on life and religion all throughout this passage. He’s talking about physical issues, hunger, poverty, persecution, sorrow but they also have a spiritual meaning. The idea is that for the believer they will have their eyes open and realize that these also refer to spiritual conditions and that rewards will come for how we live in this life.

1. Blessings for earthly problems (20-21)
2. Blessed are the poor

* **Poor**—It does mean dirt poor, but Jesus is using it to mean in the spiritual sense. He is talking about those that recognize that because of sin we are spiritually bankrupt and accept Christ offer for forgiveness and restoration. The blessing isn’t earned but rather is a free gift by realizing that nothing we can do can fix that state but only Christ can fix our spiritual poverty. Jesus here isn’t talking about physical wealth and saying that rich people cannot attain salvation. He is again talking spiritually. Now Jesus isn’t saying that poor people are automatically saved. Again the idea is that someone recognizes their own lack, their own spiritual poverty and their need for a savior. Now other passages teach us that can be a challenge for people who are wealthy, why? Because they lean on themselves, their own money and don’t see that need. Think about our own country, we view it the same way. We provide, we do, we work, we don’t need help. But Jesus right off the bat challenges the disciples and us by saying that true blessings come not from having, but from knowing that you need help. Knowing that you DON’T have everything and you need Jesus.
* Imagine their shock when Jesus said what you need isn’t a change in circumstances, but rather a change in your relationship to God! **Maybe that’s you here today.** Maybe you don’t need a change in your circumstances maybe you need to realize that you don’t have it all, you don’t NEED it all, but you do need help, you do need Jesus! The opposite of being poor in spirit is having a spirit full of self!
* Some translations will use the word happy, but in place of blessed. Here’s why I don’t love that word and blessed works better. The Greek word used here means, **one who is fully satisfied independent of their circumstances.** Happy fluctuates. Blessed doesn’t. Happiness changes for many of us based on how our football team does. It’s based on a circumstance. Blessed doesn’t change. You don’t lose the blessing based on your circumstance. Blessed is dependent on God’s love and graciousness not on our circumstances. There is a world of difference between happy and blessed and an eternal difference as well, because those who place their faith in Jesus for Salvation will be blessed not only in this life but for forever in eternity.
* The blessing that you receive is one day being able to go to heaven, the kingdom of God! Not just that, but you presently possess this kingdom, that means living life under Jesus authority now, living for Him, doing life His way and one day spending eternity in heaven with God! None of this brings the promises though of circumstances changing on earth. None of it brings the promise of great monetary wealth, perfect life, everything going well and smooth. But it does bring the promise of being a part of God’s Kingdom, His blessings, and living a life full of purpose, living out the life that God has chosen specifically for you and set you aside to do!

1. **Hunger:** Not literal hunger but spiritual hunger. The Word for hunger is in the present tense, meaning this is an ongoing thing. Once you’ve accepted Christ you should constantly hunger to learn more of Jesus, to need more of Him in your life. It shouldn’t be a great, I’ve accepted Christ now I will never think of Him again. This is a person who craves righteousness.

* Jesus is giving a bit of a two fold idea here. Those that may lack and are physically hungry but are seeking after righteousness will find contentment in Jesus. Jesus turns human need into human contentment.
* Jesus tells us that you will be satisfied, that is divine satisfaction that comes from God. Soul satisfaction that only God can fill. **Where do you turn for satisfaction?** This is in the passive voice, those that hunger for truth spiritually are satisfied by God. The challenge from Jesus in the Beatitudes here is to turn to God for care. Trust in Him to provide for your needs both physical and spiritual and then seek after Him!

1. Sadness—This one is similar to Matthew but isn’t found there. The word for weep is in the present tense and indicates weeping continually. Weeping indicates repentance or mourning. This is essentially an emotional breakdown that follows recognition of spiritual bankruptcy. This is someone morning over their sin, weeping over the hardships of life, knowing that they are spiritually bankrupt apart from God, but God gives him life and not just life but give this person who has recognized that life is hard and that they cannot make it without Jesus, God gives them laughter.

* Shall laugh is in the present tense giving the idea that one day this will be fulfilled in the future kingdom. Laughter expresses inner joy and one day that inner joy will reach it’s peak when we see Jesus face to face. Laughter alludes to the joy that comes to God’s people from Salvation in Him! Laughter comes from seeing the end of sin and shame and suffering. Which one day all those that place their face and trust in Jesus are going to see and experience.

**APP:** Here’s the deal. Life is hard. It’s hard to follow Jesus, it’s hard to live life God’s way. It’s hard to do what God has called us to do, but it’s just as hard to live life without God. To live life on our own. And life with God comes with God helping us, eternal blessings, promise of joy, laughter, contentment. It won’t be easy, but it will be worth it. The same can’t be said about life without God. **Make a choice.**

1. Rewards for Persecution (22-23)
2. Blessed are the persecuted (22)

* This last beatitude that we see here indicates true salvation. If this is happening to you, it’s happening because you have been genuinely changed by God and are living for Him and people are taking notice. The world’s hostile rejection of Christ followers is evidence they are among the blessed, because the world does not reject its own. These are people rejecting you, hating you because of who you are associated with. Not because you were a jerk or something else, but solely because of who Jesus is. Jesus is comparing those who are facing this to those OT prophets. They stood for what was right and stood for God, and that made sinners, especially religious hypocrites angry (There are people in my past, religious hypocrites, who would not associate anymore with me because of Grace) Social isolation because you associate your name with the name of Christ. But God says you will be blessed because of this.

**App:** Maybe this means you don’t get a promotion at work because you refuse to work Sundays because you want to lead your family correctly. Maybe this means a family member stops talking to you because you have accepted Christ as your Savior, maybe it means you lose a friend because you no longer want to live for the world but you want to live for Jesus and they hate jesus. That’s the price we pay but God says you will be blessed. They are literally choosing to persecute Jesus. Don’t get mad as these people when they do it, they are persecuting God and hopefully will one day realize the mistake they are making and will turn their life to Christ as well.

1. A believers reaction to persecution. (23)

* Focus on Future joy not the present persecution. Jesus gives two commands here. Be glad and leap for joy. Both are in the aorist imperative, they are commands that can only be obeyed by Christians filled with the spirit. We are to be looking forward to what is to come.

1. Be glad—this means to be cheerful, calmly happy.
2. Leap for joy—this is an exuberant springing motion, it’s a sign of joy!

**App:** We are going to face persecution and problems on earth if we are true followers of Jesus. Now let me say this, we don’t face persecution here like other countries. Half of the persecution you think you face is self inflicted (explain) but we may face real persecution. Don’t get upset about it. Rather know that it confirms your faith in Jesus and one day you’ll be rewarded for enduring it in Christ’s name.

1. Sorrows foretold (explain don’t read 24-26)

* These are the opposite of what we just mentioned. Before Jesus was giving blessings for His followers and now He is giving 4 woes or exclamations of pain or pity. He’s given them a warning and a call to repentance if they are living this way. Don’t live for what those that haven’t accepted Christ live for. The world values one things but those that follow Jesus should value spiritual things.

1. **Practice of Christ followers (27-45)**
2. Love Radically (27-36)
3. Love your enemies (27-28)

* Jesus here is contrasting how much differently our response should be to those who are persecuting us. Jesus is expecting that if we are living for Him we are going to have those that oppose us and don’t like us! **Love—**present imperative, which is a command to do this continually. Clearly this command is humanly Impossible but it is HIMpossible. Loving your enemies is not our fleshly natural response. Because we have the love of God in us, the holy spirit in us we can walk in the spirit and demonstrate God’s love to our enemies. This is a supernaturally enabled response for us. Love here is (agapao) This means love put to action. Not just saying that you love your enemies but prove it. How? Jesus is going to explain. **To love a friend is natural, to love an enemy is Christlike.**

**App:** So often religious people can be the meanest most hypocritical enemies that anyone can have. (Higher price brand illustration. Shoe polish, his shows aren’t any shinier why would I buy it) Our Christianity is like that. We tell someone they need Jesus and they see us not being loving, why would they want that. So how do we do that?

* Jesus goes on to say that they should bless, or speak well of those that mistreat you. It’s a present imperative. This should be our constant practice not a once every now and then thing. Blessing those that are unkind to us is not our natural response. Everything Jesus is calling us to do is opposite of what our natural human response would be!
* He challenges us to pray for our enemies. It’s really tough to hate someone if you are constantly praying for them. This would be a good prayer as well. Not praying for their downfall. Prayerful thoughts are great antidote for sinful thoughts! Pray for your enemies!

**Transition:** How else do we help others see Jesus through our lives and our love for them.

1. Don’t fight back (29)

* Essentially don’t pay them back. Don’t retaliate or seek to get revente. This is not saying to never defend yourself, dads, husbands you have a responsibility to keep your family safe, do that. The idea isn’t necessarily impending death for our family but moreso someone wronging us, and showing love back to them. (Pastor mcdonald wanting to sue the construction company) Think about how Jesus responded to those who were striking Him and mis treating him before He was crucified. He took it and showed them God’s love.
* This is referring to lawsuits or theft. If someone steals your coat let them have your shirt too. Not literally give up all your clothes (use some common sese here) but moreso how you should respond. If someone wrongs you don’t seek to get even, just continue being generous and showing love. Even be ready to give them more than they took. Maybe they need it more than you do! **You get the idea of what Jesus is asking us to do?** He’s asking us to love radically, way different than anything the world has ever seen! We should be loving them the way He loves us and showing them what they are missing without a relationship with Him.

1. Give Generously (30) (don’t read)

* Give generously, not don’t necessarily enable a beggar. The Bible talks about working, but sometimes our love looks like giving a loan, knowing full well we will never receive it back. Resources aren’t meant to be hoarded but generously expensed. In context in Jewish history those that were begging would have been those in dire need and possibly couldn’t work. Who can you help? Who needs helps and you can give to generously and show the love of God. The World tells you to hoard your wealth, God says to be generous with it.

1. The golden rule (31-35)

* Treat others the way you want to be treated, not treat others as they treat you, but treat other people the way you would expect or want to be treated. That’s contrary to the world’s mindset isnt’ it? Spurgeon wrote, “*if all men acted on it, there would be no slavery, no war, no swearing, no striking, no lying, no robbing; but all would be justie and love.”* It is challenging to love those and treat those that don’t treat us right.
* God tells us how to love regardless of what happens. He tells us to especially love those that don’t love us. Even unsaved people can be kind to those that are kind but God is calling us to something greater! God is calling you to love the unlovable, He is calling you to be kind to those who aren’t, He is calling you to share His love with those the world ostracizes. Will you?
* People lend money to those that they know will pay them back. That’s the whole idea of credit. But here God says love your enemies. Do good to them, lend to them knowing that you will get nothing back! Why? Because its what God does. God loves us and its even possible for us to share this love with others because of how God has loved us and given us. None of this is possible except for the love that God has given us!

1. Show mercy because God does (36)

* God is calling for continual mercy now. It’s a present imperative. Jesus here is telling us to be merciful, just like God is merciful. Not that we will always live this out perfectly, but that hopefully, we will continue to get closer to this day in and day out. God’s mercy is God not giving us what we deserve. We deserve to die and spend eternity in Hell, but God who is rich in mercy, and because of His great love sent Jesus to die on the cross for us and HE wants to have a relationship with you and use you and me to share that good news with others. You need to share the same mercy God showed you to others.

1. Judge righteously (37) (not reading)

* Jesus tells the disciples to check their motives for judging. Not that they should never judge but that they should check their motives for judging. We make judgement calls everyday. (elaborate) But we don’t want to judge looking down, but we are going to look at someone and assess their spiritual condition, not to see how we can degrade them but to see how we can help. The idea is judging how you want to be judged. Oh that person doesn’t deserve salvation… did you?

1. Give Generously—the way you want to receive (38)

* Jesus mentions to give generously, how you want to receive and God will take care of you. Trust in Him to provide your needs.

1. Parable of blind leading the blind (39-42) (not reading)

* Those who follow leaders who don’t know the way to God’s kingdom will never make it there themselves.

1. Good trees produce good fruit (43-45)

* (hold up and call out fruits) That makes sense right? The fruit fits the tree. The fruit that a person produces reflects what is at the core of their own being. Jesus is warning of false teachers. If someone is presenting themselves as a Christian teacher but isn’t showing all the fruit, the actions of their life and their teaching should match.
* You produce what you are. (elaborate) Fruit is something that one can see. It’s a reflection of one’s true character. It’s the final test. The quality of the character of a person determines the quality of the fruit of thet person. If you are a Christian you should be producing fruit that matches that. You’re life should be radically different from those that aren’t.
* What you treasure in your heart wil emerge from your mouth. If it isn’t just evident from your fruit from your actions it will be evident by how you speak. What you say flows from what is in your heart. How we speak reveals our heart. Doesn’t mean we will always be perfect, but if you are constantly speaking about things that go against God’s Word, you are constantly doing the wrong thing, your heart, what is truly inside of you is showing. Garbage in Garbage out right? What you are putting in will come out? Are you reading God’s word? Are you taking in good music, good communication with other Christian friends? Your lips what you say is the last indicator of what’s in your heart. Watch what you put in.

1. **Challenge to Christ followers (46-49)**

* Jesus here challenging his followers. How can you call Him Lord and you aren’t doing what He says. How can that be possible? If you have truly accepted Christ you will experience a change in you rheart and in your attitude and in your actions. Perfection? No. Christianity is about getting better not being perfect. But you should see some change. If you aren’t maybe you don’t truly know the Lord or maybe you aren’t focusing on Him like you need to. Get help! Talk to me, Harald, or someone who has been saved a while and read the Bible and pray with them. Obedience to Christ is not optional because it is at the very foundation of the Christian life. Once you have trusted Christ you have to live life God’s way. Not always perfectly, none of us do that, but we have to strive to get better.
* Hearers of the word do the word. (James 1:22) be doers of the word. Don’t just come here on Sunday Hear what I have or Harald or more importantly God and do the exact opposite as soon as you leave. Jesus then gives an example of what this looks like.

1. House on the rock (48)

* Jesus Christ is the believers foundation. If you trust in Jesus for salvation you are building the foundation of your spiritual life on Jesus. Jesus warning is that the foundation of our life will be shaken from time to time. Will your foundation stand up against those tests? What is your life built on? Is it built on a firm foundation? Jesus?

1. House on the sand

* This is those that have heard the gospel and not acted on it. Or those that have the belief and fail to obey Jesus. This is a false believer whose life is in Great ruin. To build on the rock means to obey what Jesus says. To build on the sand means to profess obedience but not practice it. Is your foundation on Jesus or on yourself? On your obedience to Him or on your love for what you want? This whole passage is about that. Your life should look radically different with Jesus. It should challenge us to focus on Him, serving Him, obeying Him, and sharing the gospel rather than on our selves. Jesus is challenging us that our lives should look differently than how the world thinks our lives should look. Does yours?

**Takeaways:**

1. If you don’t have a relationship with Jesus you need to start one today!
2. You need to be focused on heavenly rewards not earthly inconveniences.
3. We need to show others Christ’s love through how we love them.