

Come to Jesus Luke 6:1-26

We have been studying the Gospel of Luke. Today, we will study the first half of cp. 6. The theme is "Come to Jesus". Cp. 5 and 6 are in contrast, so we will be comparing the two chapters.

1. Hearing

5:1-11 records about people who heard the Word of Jesus. Mainly it talks about Simon Peter. He heard the Word of Jesus. He let down the nets. He realized Jesus was a man of authority and he himself was a sinful man. And, he left everything and followed Jesus. How does cp. 6 begin?

v.1-3

¹ One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels. ² Some of the Pharisees asked, "Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" ³ Jesus answered them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?"

In cp. 5, Simon Peter heard the Word of Jesus, and followed him. In cp. 6, it mentions people who have not read the Word. V.3 says, "Have you not read this?" Here it talks about the Pharisees. They were a group of people who strictly observed the law. Of course, they studied the law. If they didn't know it, they couldn't observe it. But Jesus told them, "Have you not read this?" The point is not whether they have read it or not, but how they understood it. How did they understand the word?

Romans 9:31-32

³¹ but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. ³² Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the "stumbling stone."

The Jews tried to achieve salvation, tried to attain righteousness by their works. The Pharisees are the extreme example. They were the most hard-working law keeper, trying to achieve righteousness by works. Not only that, they accuse Jesus' disciples as they saw the disciples did "what is not lawful to do".

v.4-5

⁴ He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." ⁵ Then Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

Jesus said to them, "I am the Lord. I have all authority. I will give what I have, my peace and my rest to those whom I want to."

Jesus is not unfair in giving to some and not giving to others. Jesus doesn't show favoritism. Then, to whom does Jesus give?

Luke 5:31

³¹ Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

Jesus gives to those who come to him. He gives to those who are desperate for him, those who say "Jesus, I need you." In other words, Jesus doesn't give to those who say, "I can do it myself. I will try my way. I am not that bad. I don't need your help."

2. Watching

Luke 5:12

¹² While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

There was a man who was covered with leprosy, and he saw Jesus. And he begged Jesus, "Please make me clean." In those days, nobody would come closer to the people with leprosy. Everybody tried to stay away from them. But, Jesus answered his request. He came closer to him, reached out his hand and touched him. And he said, "I am willing. Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him.

Going back to cp. 6.

v.6-7

⁶ On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled. ⁷ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath.

Here, there were also those who saw Jesus. They watched Jesus closely. What kind of people were they? They were scribes and Pharisees. What were they thinking while watching Jesus? Were they also seeking Jesus like the

man who was healed of leprosy? They were watching Jesus closely in order to find an accusation against Him. They thought they knew what was right and good. And they thought they were doing what was right and good.

v.9

⁹ Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?"

It's a simple question. We know the answer without thinking.

v.10

¹⁰ He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was completely restored.

Jesus did what was good in everyone's eye.

v.11

¹¹ But they were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.

But, the Pharisees were filled with rage. They were in a panic. And they plotted to kill Jesus.

John 5:39-40

³⁹ You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

Those who think they are right by themselves don't come to Jesus. They may watch Jesus closely, but only because they want to criticize Him.

3. Pushing

After this event, Luke writes about Jesus' prayer in v.12 and Jesus' great power in v.19. Cp. 5 develops the same way. Luke writes about Jesus' prayer in v.16 and Jesus' power and authority in v.17-26.

v.17-19

¹⁷ He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸ who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, ¹⁹ and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

Here, it describes about the people who come to Jesus. The Bible divides the people into two groups. One is the group of disciples, and the other is the crowd.

Mark describes the same event in more detail in his Gospel.

Mark 3:9-10

⁹ Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him. ¹⁰ For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him.

Do you remember how people rushed into the airplane when the budget airs still operated free-seating? They just rushed into the cabin, each one trying to get a better seat. Or can you imagine the ladies who are scrambling to get bargains during a special discount hour in the department store? There is no order. They are all desperate to get what they want. They don't care how they look to others, and just push their way through the crowd. If the crowd like that pressed about Jesus, he would not be safe, they might crush him. So Jesus separated himself from them.

Today we're studying "Come to Jesus." Can we come to Jesus, no matter how selfish our motive is? Can we draw closer to Jesus, no matter how bad our attitude is? The crowd will press about Jesus to get what they want. But the disciples will draw near to Him with the different attitude from the crowd.

4. The Blessed Life

From 6:20 to the end was spoken to the disciples. But cp. 5, on the other hand, was spoken to those who complained against Jesus' disciples.

In 5:31-32, it talks about those who are called and those who are not called. Then three parables. The parable of the bridegroom. The parable of new and old clothes. The parable of new wine and old wineskins.

In cp. 6 from v.20 to the end, it talks about new life; what kind of life people who repented, who were born again are supposed to live. It talks about how the lives of Jesus' disciples will be transformed. These were spoken to the disciples.

Today we will focus on 6:20-26. Here it talks about those who are blessed and those who are woeful. From v27 to the rest, we will study next time.

First, let's look at those who are woeful.

v.24-26

²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. ²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶ Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.

Jesus says woeful people are those who are satisfied with things in this world; those who have a sense of contentment in what they can achieve by their own strength. Those who find gratification with the word and praise by other people.

Why are they woeful? Because they don't need Jesus. Because they don't seek Jesus. Even if they come to Jesus, they just want what they want from him and they don't seek Jesus himself.

Now, let's look at those who are blessed.

v.20-23

²⁰ Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²² Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. ²³ "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.

Christians have to be poor, we should always be hungry. We should be weeping or make a long face. We cannot laugh out loud, or never dance with joy. The Bible does not say that. Don't be mistaken.

Remember to whom did Jesus speak these words? To the disciples.

Right before these verses, in v.13-16, the names of the disciples were mentioned. How did they become Jesus' disciples? In the previous cp., we saw some of their stories.

5:11

¹¹ Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

5:27-28

²⁷ After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, ²⁸ and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

They left everything and followed Jesus. If they do that, they will be poor, they may not be able to eat three times a day. Other people may mock them, "You are crazy!"

We may think, "That's a great loss! Then, I will not become Jesus' disciple." No, it's not a great loss. Jesus said blessed are people like them.

From his experience of disciple's life Paul said "sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything. (II Cor.6:10)" This is the blessed life of his disciples.

Jesus' disciples might think they were poor, they didn't have anything. But they also found that there is abundant life in Jesus. So, they chose to remain in Jesus, be protected by His authority, and enjoyed God's blessings.

Jesus' disciples recognized they were sinners. So, they received salvation by the authority of Jesus. They received forgiveness, healings and comfort, which only Jesus can give. And they lived, remaining in Jesus' authority, in His word, and in Jesus himself.

Jesus' disciples realized that they would never be satisfied with what they had been seeking before or with what they could have achieved by themselves in this world. And, they realized only Jesus would truly satisfy them. So, they remained in Jesus.

They are truly blessed, because they come to Jesus as His disciples.

Only when a person has the heart of a disciple, that person will draw near to Jesus, in a true sense. And they are blessed.

5. Payer

v.12

¹² One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

Here, Luke recorded that Jesus prayed. Jesus needed to pray.

After this prayer Jesus appointed twelve apostles. So we can guess Jesus probably prayed and asked the Father which of the disciples he should choose as apostles. We also need to pray in order to make an important decision.

Again, v.12

¹² One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

What was the situation when Jesus went out to pray “in those days”?

V.12 is following after v.11. So “in those days” in v.12 refers to the content up to v.11. That was the situation where Jesus was “in those days”.

Jesus knew the will of His Father. And he was doing His Father’s will, the good he should be doing. But because of that, people tried to trap him and to kill him. The more Jesus said the right things, did good, and lived according to Father’s will, the more He was accused by people. In order to keep saying the right things, doing good, living according to Father’s will in that situation, he needed to pray. There was no other way.

If Jesus needed to pray, his disciples also need to pray because they may be in the same situation.

There are things that look like prayers, but are actually not prayers to come to Jesus.

Boasting. “I’m doing good things like this, great stuff like that. I know this and that.” That is not prayer. Thanks-giving is a prayer, but boasting is not a prayer.

Criticizing or judging others. “That person is wrong in this. This person has such a wrong idea. They should be like this.” Intercession is a prayer. But criticism is not a prayer.

I want to get what I want. “Please give me this or that. May my will be done here on the earth, as well as in heaven.” That is not a prayer.

Prayer is not to move God according to man’s will. But in prayer, a man draws near to God, makes his will in line with God’s will. In prayer, a man offers himself to God and lets God change him according to God’s will. That is prayer. Through prayer, we draw near to God, and make our will in line with God’s will. And, God gives us strength to live according to God’s will.

1 Corinthians 2:5

⁵ so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.

It is fun to study the Bible. It is important to study the Bible. We definitely need to know and understand the Word to believe it. But our faith should not rest on the knowledge of the Bible, theology, doctrine, or Christian ritual or tradition. Our faith should rest on God's power.

Through prayer, we draw near to God, receive God’s power and are filled with new strength. If we don’t have this, our faith doesn’t have any support.

And, only when our faith is on God's power, there is the power of God in our mission, in our life as witnesses for resurrected Christ.

Today we studied the first half of Luke cp. 6. The theme was "Come to Jesus".

People who think they already have enough won't come to Jesus. People who think they are right by themselves won't come to Jesus. People who just want what they want cannot come to Jesus, in a true sense. To come to Jesus is to draw near to Jesus with the heart of a disciple. And through prayer, we draw near to God and receive the power of God. And our faith will rest on God's power.