Lesson 6 Luke 6

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. 2Some of the Pharisees asked, “Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

3Jesus answered them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? 4He 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.” 5Then Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

6On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled.7The 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. 8But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Get up and stand in front of everyone.” So he got up and stood there.

9Then 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?”

10He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was completely restored. 11But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.

12One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. 13When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: 14Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, 15Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, 16Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

17He 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 coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, 18who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, 19and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

20Looking at his disciples, he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
    for yours is the kingdom of God.  
21Blessed are you who hunger now,  
    for you will be satisfied.  
Blessed are you who weep now,  
    for you will laugh.  
22Blessed are you when people 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 ancestors treated the prophets.

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

27“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 30Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. 35But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

37“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

39He also told them this parable: “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? 40The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.

41“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 42How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

43“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. 44Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briers. 45A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

46“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?47As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like.48They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. 49But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”

James 1:2-4 **2**Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3**because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. **4**Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 2:5 Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

Romans 12:17-21 17Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Carefully consider what is right in the eyes of everybody. 18 If it is possible on your part, live at peace with everyone.

19 Do not avenge yourselves, beloved, but leave room for God’s wrath. For it is written: “Vengeance is Mine; I will repay, says the Lord.”

20 On the contrary, “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink. For in so doing, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1. Read Luke 6:1-11. The Pharisees jealousy of Jesus was growing and so was their scrutiny of his words and actions. What did they object to in the disciples’ behavior in this passage?

2. How does Jesus clarify the Sabbath issue in verses 5 and 9? What claim is He making about Himself, and what is He asking them? What is Jesus implying should be the overarching principle regarding the Sabbath?

3. Read verses 12-16. What did Jesus do before choosing the 12 apostles? Do you do this?

4. Think about the glaring flaws some of the 12 apostles had, and jot down a few of them. How does this make you feel? Does it give you hope? Explain.

5. Read verses 17-26. In this sermon which is often called “The Sermon on the Plain” who is in the crowd? How did Jesus meet their needs?

6. In the first half of his sermon, in verses 20-23, Jesus was talking to believers in the crowd. Read also James 1:2-4 and James 2:5. Summarize what God is saying through these passages to those who have put their faith in Him.

7. In verses 24-26 who is Jesus talking to? Summarize the warning He gives here.

8. Read verses 27-36, and also Romans 12:17-21, about loving our enemies. Summarize what Jesus is saying here. How is this possible?

9. Read verses 37-42. Why do you think Jesus made such a point of saying that we should not judge or condemn others, but should forgive? (Refer also to Romans 12:17-21.) ‘

10. How is a person recognized, according to verses 43-45? What does a wise person do, according to verses 46-49, to make sure the storms of life won’t wipe him or her out? Have you seen or experienced this to be true?

11. Journal one of these passages SOAP style.