



Good News **for all people.**

The Gospel of Luke

Week 5 Discussion Questions

Week of 9/25/22

Text: Luke 5:33-6:11 (Thornton); passages from Luke 6:27-49 (Erie and Boulder)

Icebreaker: What's the most loving thing someone has ever done for you (besides Jesus)? 😊

Luke 5:33-6:11 (Thornton)

1. In verses 33-34 of chapter 5, Jesus compares himself to a groom (or “bridegroom”) and compares his followers to wedding guests when confronted by the religious leaders. Why would it be unfitting for such guests to fast?

Application: Jesus doesn't shun fasting altogether (see v. 34) but sees it as appropriate for when he “is taken away from them.” In what way is the life of a Christian one of both times of “feasting”—as in a wedding celebration—and times of fasting (literally or figuratively)?

2. Jesus uses a parable in verses 36-39 to describe his work and ministry. In what ways do you think Jesus's work is “new” or “fresh” in comparison to what is “old”?

Application: We're 2,000 years removed from when Jesus spoke these words! Do you think this “new” versus “old” distinction still matters to us today?

3. Chapter 6 begins with two episodes that take place on the Sabbath. What is the Sabbath and why do you think the religious leaders were so angry (see v. 11)?

Application: What can we learn from these accounts about Jesus's heart for other people?

4. How do you think these two Sabbath-related accounts would be different if the Pharisees and scribes truly loved their neighbor as themselves (see Leviticus 19:18, Luke 10:25-28 and Galatians 5:14)?

Application: Have you ever seen something like this, where people lost sight of love as they sought to follow God's commands? If so, what happened?

Luke 6:27-49 (Erie and Boulder)

1. Verses 17-19 tell us that Jesus's teaching to the crowd was accompanied by miraculous healings of both physical and spiritual troubles. What role do you think Jesus's supernatural actions have in relation to his teaching in the rest of this chapter?

Application: What difference would it make to you if all we had was a record of Jesus's teaching but no eyewitness testimony (Luke 1:1-4) of his actions?

2. How would you summarize verses 27-36? If you're familiar with Jesus's life, how does he model the things he's teaching here? Be as specific as possible.

Application: Think of a challenging relationship in your life. What could it look like for you to demonstrate the kind of love to that person that Jesus is prescribing in these verses?

3. Jesus's words in verses 35-36 reveal the basis for his instruction. What is this basis or foundation?

Application: What difference should a firm grasp of the Most High's kindness and mercy toward us make in our ability to extend kindness and mercy toward others?

4. Verses 37-42 are sometimes distilled into a simple maxim, "Don't judge!" Period. Do you see any circumstance in these verses where Jesus might permit one person to offer correction to another? If so, what is it?

Application: What could happen within a community of believers when those "with a log in their eye" decide to point out the "specks" in others' eyes? How can we guard against this?

5. These verses are sometimes referred to as the "Kingdom ethic"—the principles that instruct us on how God's followers are to live in God's Kingdom. Where do you see sharp contrasts with the "popular ethic" of our society today and where do you see similarities?

Week 4 Final Thought:

Love. It's what all the law and prophets depend on (Matt. 22:40). It covers a multitude of sins (1 Pet. 4:8). It's the royal law (Jas. 2:8). It's the fulfillment of the whole law (Gal. 5:14). It's the greatest (1 Cor 13:13). It's what instructs us to love our neighbor as we love God, even if it means we "work" on the Sabbath. And our undeserved experience of it from Jesus is what fuels us (by God's Spirit at work in us) actions of love toward those we might otherwise consider unlovable.