

Luke Chapter 6

V: 1-5 The resentment towards Jesus by the Pharisees, Sadducees, and the Scribes is growing. This will be the first of many confrontations about the Sabbath day.

- God demonstrated the Sabbath day in Genesis and instituted it in Exodus, it was explained in Leviticus – but it was truly lived out in Jesus.

Matthew 11:28-30 “²⁸Come unto Me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and you shall find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

- Jesus teaches that we can come to Him for rest. The religious leaders scoff, and in effect state “we don’t need you, we have the Sabbath!”
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V: 1-2 2nd Sabbath after the 1st: Everything was in relation to the Passover feast and the feast of un-leavened bread. So the 1st Sabbath after the Passover, then the 2nd.

- About 200 years before Jesus was born, the Pharisees began to add to the rules and regulations as they sought to interpret the Law.
- According to their interpretation of the Law which later developed into the **Mishnah** (Rabbinic commentary), and later in the **Talmud** (codification of Mosaic law & traditions; 200 AD), it was not lawful on the Sabbath day to pick any food, fruit, or wheat.
- It was not lawful to thresh wheat on the Sabbath day – so from their perspective the disciples had violated the Law on a couple of different points.
- You can see the blurring of Law and tradition, eventually with tradition supplanting the Law.
- On the contrary plucking a meal was technically ok according to the Law.

Deuteronomy 23:25 “When you come into your neighbor’s standing grain, you may pluck the heads with your hand, but you shall not use a sickle on your neighbor’s standing grain.”

- The issue wasn’t so much what they did as when they did it.
- Had they been using a sickle, or had they brought a basket – that would constitute harvesting – which would be a real violation of the Sabbath, and perhaps thievery.

- While the Law stated that they weren't to work or labor on the Sabbath which included a few brief examples such as not reaping a harvest or threshing it, they added that you could not winnow, then they took that to mean that you could not prepare a meal on the Sabbath, and then you could only walk so far.
- Pretty soon they were down to not carrying things because that was a burden – it soon became impractical and man made.
- The Sabbath was intended to be a blessing, not a burden. Again the blurring of the Law and their traditions - which of the two is really binding?

Mark 7:6-9 “⁶He answered and said to them, well has Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁷Howbeit in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. ⁸For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men, the washing of pots and cups: and many other such things you do. ⁹And He said to them, full well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your own tradition.”

- Now Jesus is walking through a field with His disciples and according to the Law, you could walk through your neighbors field and eat some of the grain or grapes or whatever so long as you didn't fill a basket or use a reaping tool.
- At that time of the year, near the wheat harvest – you can pluck off the top of the wheat stalk and rub the husk between your hands which breaks the outer husk / shell revealing the kernel which can then be eaten.
- The Pharisees confront Jesus – asking / accusing the disciples of doing that, which is unlawful, but really it isn't – it just contradicts their tradition, their mistaken interpretation of the law.

Sabbath / 4th Commandment:

Exodus 20:8-11 “⁸Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work: ¹⁰But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God: in it you shall not do any work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”

Exodus 31:13 “Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: “Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you.” (A reminder of who they are, their identity.)

- Sabbath / Shabbat.

- The “Sabbath” has always been the 7th day; there would be 6 days of work, then the 7th is a day of rest, or the Sabbath – which is Saturday, not Sunday.
- We as Gentile believers have the concept of the Sabbath through Jesus, He being our rest. We rest in Him every day, not just Sunday...
- From a Biblically historical perspective, what is being spoken of here is a completely Jewish requirement; the Sabbath as such was intended for the Jews, not the Gentiles or non-Jews.

Exodus 31:13 “Speak also to the children of Israel...”

Exodus 31:16 “Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath...”

Exodus 31:17 “It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel...”

- Keeping the Sabbath was a serious observance; there was the penalty of death for those who didn’t.
- But that was for what God called the Sabbath, not necessarily what men made it into, there is a difference.

5 Reasons for the Sabbath. (5)

1. It was to be a model of Jesus, pointing us to Him.

- Just like **Matthew 11:28-30** it wasn’t intended to be difficult or cumbersome.

2. The Sabbath was intended to be a physical break, actual physical rest, which God modeled for us in Genesis, working 6 days, resting on the 7th.

Jesus would later teach:

Mark 2:27-28 “²⁷And He said to them, The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath: ²⁸Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.”

Exodus 31:15 “Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord:...Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.”

3. Another purpose was to identify, or distinguish God’s people, that they would be sanctified for His purposes, consecrated – apart from the rest of the world.

Exodus 31:13 “Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: “Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you.”

- I won’t call it a Sabbath observance, but when we set a day apart out of our week to gather together to publicly, corporately worship God, celebrate Him, honor and

study Him, giving Him the first fruits of our time, labor, and increase – that sets us apart, we're identified as His people.

Hebrews 10:25 “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

4. Another purpose for the Sabbath that we glean from **Matthew 11:29** – “rest for your souls.” – Not just rest for your body, but rest for your soul, communicating God's grace to us.

- Not striving or working for salvation, peace with God – knowing that we can't work enough to ever deserve it or obtain it.

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 “⁸For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

5. This was to be a day that was dedicated to worshipping God, to having fellowship and communion with Him.

- Over and over again we've seen in the Old Testament that God simply wants to be with His people, and that ultimately that is why Jesus came – to restore that fellowship between a Holy and Righteous God, and sinful men.
- The intent was that He would particularly be the focal point of the day, and that this in itself would be refreshing in the Spirit.
- Have you every felt tired and weak, run down – and you get into a conversation about the Lord, or you share the Gospel with someone – and pretty quick you're energized, excited, and the conversation takes on a completely different tone from before it started? That is the refreshing of the Lord!

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- The Jewish religious establishment had decreed many additions to the basic law that God had given and were very legalistic about it – which Jesus also came to set straight.

- There are those today who seek to either impose or enforce the Laws of Moses upon believers, mandating specific days of worship, rituals, and observances.
(SDA church, “Torah Observant Believers”, etc.).

- Our basic rules of practice are these:

1. Did Jesus teach it?

2. Did the church of Acts practice it?
3. What does God's word say about it?

Colossians 2:13-17 “¹³And you, being dead in your sins and the un-circumcision of your flesh, has He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses; ¹⁴blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross; ¹⁵And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it. ¹⁶Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days: ¹⁷Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.”

- All of this is where Jesus is headed, and obviously there is a conflict with the religious culture of the day.
- We accept this because we know who Jesus is and what place He has in our hearts but this was very radical and un-orthodox to those hearing it from His lips

Matthew 4:2-3 “²And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterward an hungry. ³And when the tempter came to Him, he said, if You be the Son of God ...”

- The disciples were attacked when they were hungry, just like Jesus had been.
- The Jews had added to the Law. They also had a law that said you could only walk so much or so far before it became work on the Sabbath.
- According to their tradition, they were only able to walk a maximum of 3,000 feet from their front door before it became work – a distance of a little over ½ mile.
- These fields were more than likely outside the city...
- **Question:** What were the Jews doing there?
- The Jews were relying on the traditions / their law for justification, but they were breaking it at the same time. Hyp-ocr-isy...

Galatians 2:16 “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

V: 3-4 Jesus challenges them with the word of God and the example of King David; who by the way, also was rejected as king the first time around.

- Have you not read? Do you not know the scriptures?

David & his men ate the showbread out of the Tabernacle:

1 Samuel 21:3-6 “³Now therefore, what have you on hand? Give me five loaves of bread in my hand, or whatever can be found. ⁴And the priest answered David and said, there is no common bread on hand; but there is holy bread, if the young men have at least kept themselves from women. ⁵Then David answered the priest, and said to him, truly, women have been kept from us about three days since I came out and the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in effect common, even though it was consecrated in the vessel this day. ⁶So the priest gave him holy bread; for there was no bread there but the showbread which had been taken from before the LORD...”

- There is that sense here that love is more important than the law.

2 Corinthians 3:6 “... for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”

- David took care of His men, and so does Jesus.

V: 5 Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath – it’s all about Him!

- “Son of Man” **Daniel 7:13** – prophetic title for Messiah.
- “Lord of the Sabbath” – because He created it! He is Lord of all!

Hebrews 4:9-11 “⁹There remains therefore a rest to the people of God. ¹⁰For he who has entered into His rest, has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. ¹¹Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.”

1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not burdensome.”

- What was the purpose of the Sabbath? It is one of those things that points to Jesus! Just like communion reminds us of our Lord and His sacrifice.

V: 6-11 Describe another eventful Sabbath day: This is a situation orchestrated by the Pharisees so that they might be able to make an accusation against Jesus.

Matthew 12:10 “And behold, there was a man who had a withered hand. And they asked Him, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?” - that they might accuse Him.”

Parallel passages: **Matthew 12:9-15 Mark 3:1-7**

V: 6 Another Sabbath, the following week or thereafter from the incident of gleaning from the field of wheat. (3rd Sabbath)

- Jesus enters the Synagogue there in Capernaum to teach, and there is a man with a withered right hand. Luke being a physician is the only one to record that it was his right hand.
- Jesus is teaching, preaching, and healing, which is consistent with His ministry. The religious leaders have their agenda, and Jesus has His.

Matthew 9:35 “And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”

- Matthew & Mark - “Their synagogue”, not the, or my or our synagogue.

V: 7-8 The religious leaders are waiting to see what Jesus would do – in a sense challenging Him, looking for an opportunity to accuse Him of violating the law.

Psalm 37:32 “The wicked watches the righteous, and seeks to slay him.”

- Jesus knew their thoughts.... because even though He is fully Man, He is also still fully God - and God is omniscient, He knows all things, including our thoughts.

Psalm 139:1-3 “¹O LORD, You have searched me and known me. ²You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. ³You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.”

- Jesus accepts their challenge and tells the man with the withered hand to stand up in their midst – Jesus doesn’t want anyone to miss what is about to happen.

Psalm 37:33 “The LORD will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged.”

- Notice the man with the withered hand’s simple obedience, he stood at Jesus’ command.

V: 9 The issue is love, love for God and love for our brother. Doing the right thing.

Micah 6:8 “He has shown you, O man, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you? But to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

- Value people more than traditions. Hippies vs: carpet CC Costa Mesa.

Matthew 10:31 “Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

(Or Sacramento river smelts, or spotted owls, grey wolves, or Klamath river salmon)

Genesis 1:26-27 “²⁶Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ²⁷So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

- Men are made in the image of God which distinguishes us from all the rest of creation and also gives us greater value.
- One of the things Jesus demonstrated with David and the show bread was that love was of more value to God than their interpretation of the law / traditions.
- The greatest commandment.

Matthew 22:36-40 “³⁶Teacher / Master, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷Jesus said unto him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

V: 10 As Jesus looks around: He's reading the room.

Mark 3:5 “And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts...”

- They don't care about the man, they only care about their traditions and their mistaken interpretations of God's Law.
- They had probably not taken any notice of him or sought to minister to him – now they would use him as a pre-text to kill Jesus. – Jesus will not only minister to him, but He will use him for Good to teach them the real meaning of the Sabbath.
- After looking around Jesus tells the man “*stretch out your hand.*”
- God's commandments are His enablements.
- Jesus spoke forth the word:

“*And he did so, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.*”

- Stretching forth his hand was literally faith in action.
- We all need a paradigm shift, teachable, willing heart. Willing to be willing.

Centurions sick servant:

Matthew 8:13 “Then Jesus said to the centurion, go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you. And his servant was healed in the same hour.”

Woman with issue of blood 12 years:

Matthew 9:22 “But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, “Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that hour.”

Hebrews 11:6 “But without faith it is impossible to please God...”

- The Pharisees questioned many things about the miracles Jesus did, but not His ability to do them.

Speaking of Nicodemus:

John 3:2 “This man came to Jesus by night, and said to Him, Rabbi, we know that You are a Teacher come from God: for no man can do these signs that You do, unless God is with Him.”

John 9:16 “Therefore some of the Pharisees said, this man is not of God, because He does not keep the Sabbath. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.”

- **Did Jesus break the law?** No!
- The question was “*is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?*”
- Jesus gives the answer by implication:

“*He said to the man, “stretch out your hand.” And he did so, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.*” “apparently it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath...”

V: 11 Their reaction: filled with “rage” - “madness” (G454). “anoia” - an'-oy-ah; stupidity; rage; folly, madness. (Jackie Gleason, “one of these days Alice...!”)

Galatians 5:19-21 “¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication (pornea), uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

- The Pharisees were simply doing that which carnal men do.

Matthew 7:16-18 “¹⁶You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? ¹⁷Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.”

- Later in the Gospel of John their motive is revealed:

John 11:47-48 “⁴⁷Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council, and said, what shall we do? For this man works many signs. ⁴⁸If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.”

- The Scribes and Pharisees were filled with anger and wrath – and would have killed Jesus, but according to the other Gospels Jesus withdrew Himself - Jesus didn't put Himself into harms way, until it was time.

V: 12 Sometime after that He went up to a mountain top to pray and spend time with His Father.

Ephesians 6:18 “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”

Philippians 4:6 “Be careful / be anxious for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

- Jesus withdraws to pray to commune with His Father, and the next thing we see is that He appoints from among the many disciples those He would call Apostles. He was likely praying about the Apostles.

V: 13-16 The designating, calling of the Apostles.

V: 13 “*He chose...*” **Matthew 10:1** says that those who were named Apostles were called, just as the disciples were here in Luke.

“*Chosen / Called*” - Notice that they walked with the Lord for a season, then they were chosen / called: Not self appointed.

1 Timothy 5:22 “Do not lay hands on any man hastily / suddenly, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.”

- Jesus already knew these men better than they knew themselves, but at the same time He had given them time to consider what they were getting into.

Consider:

Luke 14:27-33 “²⁷And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it - ²⁹lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰saying, this man began to build and was not able to finish. ³¹Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a

delegation and asks conditions of peace. ³³So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.” (Consider carefully!)

Romans 11:29 “For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”

Hebrews 11:38-39 “³⁸Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draws back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him. ³⁹But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition: but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.”

- We will see later that this is lived out in the lives of the disciple & the Apostles who didn't repent of their calling even unto death.
- 12 is the number of government, represents “order”. 11 = disorder, 13 = rebellion.

“**Disciples**” = “learner” (G-3101) mathetes, math-ay-tes'; from G-3129; a learner, i.e. pupil:--disciple.

“**Apostles**” (G-652) “apostolos,” a delegate; an ambassador of the Gospel; officially a commissioner of Christ, messenger, he that is sent, “sent out one.”

- Matthew records that Jesus gave them power over sickness, cast out demons.
- Chronology: 1st they were called, then they were empowered.
- He empowered them to do the same things that He was already doing:
- He empowered them to cast out demons, to heal all manner of sickness.

Are there modern day Apostles? Yes & no.

Qualifications of an apostle:

1. **Called / chosen by the Lord.** (Not self-appointed)

Matthew 10:1 “And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples...”

Ephesians 4:11-12 “And He Himself gave some to be apostles; some prophets; some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹²For the perfecting / equipping of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”

2. **Seen the risen Christ.**

Acts 1:21-22 “²¹Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of

John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

1 Corinthians 9:1 “Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?”

3. Fellowshipped with Him.

Acts 1:21-22 “²¹Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

4. Empowered to do miracles.

Matthew 10:1, 8. “¹And when He had called to Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.” – “⁸Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils:...”

- Are there modern day Apostles? No there are not. Disciples yes, prophets yes,
- By choosing 12 Jesus was thinning out the ranks somewhat, while still ministering to the multitudes, he specifically poured into a few, building a foundation.

Sometimes a difficult teaching will thin the ranks as well.

John 6:66-67 “⁶⁶From that time many of His disciples went back and walked no more with Him. ⁶⁷Then said Jesus unto the twelve, will you also go away?”

- Transition from disciples to “apostles”.
- Just as Simon which means “shifting sand” transitioned to “Peter” which means “rock / pebble”, new name for new creature.

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

V: 14 Simon called **Peter** (Pebble, little rock), and his brother Andrew.

- **Andrew** (manly), evangelist, always bringing people to Jesus.
- **James** (Jacob / supplanter) (the greater) & **John** (Yohanan / God is gracious), “sons of thunder” – “Boanerges”, brothers.

Mark 3:17 “And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James, and He surnamed them Boanerges, which is, “the Sons of Thunder.”

- **Philip** (lover of horses), **Bartholomew** (son of Tolmai / **Nathaniel** - giver of God)

V: 15 **Matthew** (gift of Yahweh) previously **Levi**, **Thomas** / **Didymous** (twin).

- **James**, son of Alphaeus (the Less).
- **Simon** (hearing) “**Zelotes**” the zealot, also “**Simon the Canaanite**”, **Acts 1:13** part of a radical faction, revolutionary group, fighting against Rome.

V: 16 **Judas** (Judah, praise, He shall be praised), the brother of James, “**not Iscariot**” / **Thaddeus** (large hearted, courageous) / **Lebbaeus** (man of heart).

- 3 sets of brothers, listed in pairs, sent out 2 X 2.
- **Judas Iscariot**, always associated with his sin – “*who also became a traitor.*”

Fox's Book of Martyrs:

Peter: According to Jerome (Gnostic / heretic) / church tradition was crucified in Rome at the order of Nero. At Peter's request he was crucified upside down because he was not worthy to die in the same manner as his Lord.

Andrew: (1st disciple) Preached the Gospel in Asia; but upon his arrival at Edessa (city in Turkey) was taken and crucified on a cross, the two ends of which were fixed transversely in the ground. Hence the term “St. Andrew's Cross.”

James: (Greater, brother of John) Beheaded by Herod Agrippa 44 AD, along with his accuser who seeing James' demeanor prior to being executed, fell at James' feet, receiving Jesus, and was also beheaded for his new found faith.

John: “The beloved disciple” – brother to James the great. He founded the churches in Smyrna, Pergamos, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea, Thyatira, and Ephesus. He was taken from Ephesus to Rome where he was cast into a cauldron of boiling oil, but came out with no injury. Domitian then banished him to the Island of Patmos where he wrote the book of Revelation. He was set free by the next Roman Emperor, Nerva; he returned to Ephesus where he later died of old age. The only Apostle to die a natural death.

Philip: Ministering in upper Asia, martyred in Heliopolis, in Phrygia. He was scourged, thrown into prison, and afterward crucified in 54 Ad.

Bartholomew / Nathaniel: Translated the Gospel of Matthew into Hindu and ministered it in India where he was martyred by being beaten then crucified.

Thomas: Also called Didymus, preached the Gospel in Parthia and India where he was martyred by enraged pagan priests who thrust him through with a spear.

Matthew: Born in Nazareth. He wrote his gospel in Hebrew, which was afterwards, translated into Greek by James the less. He ministered in Parthia, and finally in Ethiopia, where he was martyred, being slain with a halberd: (spike & blade on a lance).

James: (son of Alphaeus) known also as “James the less” - At the age of 94 he was beaten and stoned by the Jews in Jerusalem, and finally had his brains dashed out with a fuller’s club.

Thaddeus / Jude / Lebbaeus: Also called Jude, the brother of James (the less) – was crucified at Edessa (city in Turkey) in 72 AD.

Simon the Canaanite: Zelotes, the Zealot: preached the Gospel in Mauritania, Africa, and Britain where he was crucified in 74 AD.

Matthias: Elected to replace Judas Iscariot, he was stoned at Jerusalem, and then beheaded. (Stoned & beheaded, they wanted to make sure; Paul?)

Luke 9:62 “But Jesus said to him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Romans 12:1 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”

- Ca. National Guard / Cal-Fire - trainers & firefighters - Transgender training / affirm under penalty of termination.

V: 17-19 After choosing 12 Apostles out of the larger group of disciples, he came down to the plain, closer to the Sea of Galilee, not far from Capernaum.

- Jesus had gone out to the mountain to pray, the closest mountain being Arbel - and the disciples had gone with Him because they came back with Him.



- People came out from all around the surrounding area, from Judea / South of Jerusalem, from Jerusalem, and from the North, from the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, Tyre & Sidon – they all came to Jesus to hear him and to be healed of their various diseases.
- There were two groups, “*a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people..*” Two groups; believers and non-believers.

Mark 7:16 “If any man has ears to hear, let him hear!”

- True disciples have a heart for God's Word, they want to hear more.

John 10:27 "My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me."

John 8:31 "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you continue / abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed."

- There were those who had physical malady's, and there were those who suffered from spiritual vexations, with unclean spirits, demonic possession – and they were all healed.
- As we see Jesus preparing to teach these multitudes; we see that the Lord is in a way validating the message that is about to be taught.

V: 20-49 Jesus presents the same teachings as the "Sermon on the Mount" but it is at a different time and a different location.

1. In the Sermon on the mount, Jesus called his disciples unto him, then He taught them.
 2. Here Jesus is speaking to a great multitude of people and it's on a plain as opposed to the "mount".
 3. While the content is similar in some respects, it differs very much from the sermon on the mount.
- Jesus probably taught the same basic message in different places as he moved from town to town.
 - Like the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is teaching on practical Christianity.
 - Expressing the mind of Christ – "God's intent"

2 Corinthians 3:6 "Who also made us able ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."

James 3:17 "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy."

- Not expressing the Gospel message per se, but certainly showing the need for the Gospel / salvation.
- This also shows the need for the empowering of the Holy Spirit to accomplish these truths spoken by Jesus, directed at "believers".

V: 20 "... blessed are you poor: for yours is the kingdom of God."

- To the Jewish mind, and probably to ours as well the word “blessing” evokes images of a long healthy life; wealth; a large, healthy family, a full barn, and defeated enemies.
- We do learn from God’s word that there are inherent blessings from following and being obedient to God’s Word.

Deuteronomy 28:1-14 is a good example.

Proverbs 8:32 “Now therefore, listen to me, My children, for blessed are those who keep My ways.”

- Jesus turns them from an Old Testament system of reward & punishment, and the idea that blessing is getting, to a NT understanding that the blessed life is more about giving, doing, and being – the emphasis being on being conformed to a God like character. It is a focus on attitude.

Matthew 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

- Poverty of the Spirit is a definite plus in the kingdom of God, but not much appreciated in the world. The man who is humble or meek in this world is generally looked down upon – but not so with God.

Psalm 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”

V: 21 “Blessed are you who hunger now...” Here and now in this world, often times that hunger comes from poverty. (Physical hunger vs: spiritual hunger.)

[Lazarus & rich man: \(physical hunger\)](#)

Luke 16:25 “But Abraham said, son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.”

[At the same time, regarding the spiritual hunger:](#)

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

1 Peter 2:2 “As newborn babes, desire the sincere / pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.”

Psalm 42:2 “My soul thirsts for God, for the living God:...”

Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

- The promise: “... for you shall be filled.”

“...*Blessed are you who weep now: for you shall laugh.*”

Matthew 5:4 “Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted:”

- Mourning, grieving, weeping over our sin - comforted in the Gospel message, comforted in being forgiven, comforted in the hope of Jesus Christ and new life in Him.

Describing the mission of the Messiah:

Isaiah 61:3 “To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;...”

V: 22 “*Blessed are you when men...*”

1. Hate you.
2. Exclude you.
3. Revile / reproach you.
4. Cast out your name as evil.

“... *for the Son of man's sake.*” Light reveals & salt stings... people don't like that.

Matthew 5:10-11 “¹⁰Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹Blessed are you, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake.”

- As Christians living in this world we are foreigners, this is not our home.

1 John 3:13 “Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hates you.”

John 15:18-20 “¹⁸If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹If you were of the world, the world would love its own: but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰Remember, the Word that I said to you, the servant is not greater than his master. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you;...”

1 Peter 4:14 “If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you; for the spirit of glory and of God rests upon you: on their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.”

2 Timothy 3:12 “Yes, and all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”

V: 23 Rejoice! Your reward will be great in Heaven. That's how they treated the prophets. And later the Apostles.

Acts 5:40-41 “⁴⁰... and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. ⁴¹And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.”

James 1:2-4 “²My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations / trials; ³knowing this, that the trying of your faith works patience. ⁴But let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

- Those who speak forth God’s Word and truth are not always popular, today or historically in the nation of Israel.
- The prophet Jeremiah presented a very un-popular message proclaiming the need for repentance, describing the coming judgment of God. At the same time there were many false prophets that completely contradicted his message – and the people readily received the word from the false prophets – because it was in agreement with what they wanted to do to begin with.

Steven as he was being martyred said:

Acts 7:51-52 “⁵¹You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit: as your fathers did, so do you. ⁵²Which of the prophets have your fathers not persecuted? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers,”

V: 24-26 “Woe unto you that are rich, that are full, that laugh, and men speak well of you!”

- Blessings to the poor, woes unto the rich.
- You’ve already received your reward!

James 5:1 “Come now, you rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.”

Luke 16:19-31 Lazarus and the Rich Man.

- Is this a condemnation of riches? No, he didn’t go to hell because he was rich; (Job, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David were all rich); no, he went to hell because he trusted in his riches as opposed to trusting in Jesus.
- What are we trusting in? What are we feeding on? What gives us joy?

Nehemiah 8:10 “... for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

- Woe unto you when all men speak well of you – that’s what they did with the religious leaders and false prophets!

V: 27-28 *“I say to you who hear...”* Speaking of His true disciples, those that actually do His will.

“Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you.”

Proverbs 25:21-22 *“²¹If your enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink: ²²For you shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward thee.”*

- Jesus is telling us to do something that is not natural for us to do, that in the flesh it is impossible to do – and if we try to do this in the flesh we will mostly likely fail.
- But in the Spirit – that is where the victory is.

Philippians 4:13 *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

Jesus - leadership by example:

Romans 5:8-10 *“⁸But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. ¹⁰For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”*

- Bless those that curse you, and pray for them!
- Purpose of prayer:
 1. To change us and our hearts.
 2. To change our perspective on the situation.
 3. Not to change Him or His will. – because he doesn’t change.

Malachi 3:6 *“For I am the Lord, I change not;...”*

James 5:16 *“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”*

V: 29 Turn the other cheek, if he takes your robe, give him your cloak as well.

- This is intended for people, individuals, not nations.

Matthew 5:39 *“But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.”* (Side note; then I’m out of cheeks.)

- Resist not evil... don't fight it physically. (**2 Corinthians 10:4**)
- Learn to let things go – we don't need to defend ourselves on every point.
- If we are struck, we're not to strike back – physically or verbally.

Psalm 62:6 “He only is my rock and my salvation: He is my defense; I shall not be moved.”

Balance:

Psalm 82:3-4 “³Defend the poor and fatherless; do justice to the afflicted and needy. ⁴Deliver the poor and needy; free them from the hand of the wicked.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1,3 “¹To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven:” - ³A time to kill, and a time to heal;...”

- There is a balance in all of this. Slap me on one cheek, physically or verbally - I'm to turn the other cheek. Slap someone else in my presence, that might be a different story.
- This is not a call to absolute pacifism, but to restraint - not to be the aggressor. Not to respond in the flesh, but in the Spirit.

Vv: 27 “*But I say to you who hear...*”

Matthew, Mark, Luke, Revelation: “He that has ears to hear, let him hear.”

V: 30 Give to every man that asks of you and don't ask for it back.

Matthew 5:42 “Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.”

Galatians 6:10 “Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, especially to them who are of the household of faith.”

Hebrews 13:5 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as you have: for He has said, I will never leave you, nor forsake you.”

- We don't have to give everything away – that would be un-reasonable – but we're to have a right perspective and attitude on what we do have, we're not to be stingy. And perhaps to trust the Lord to replace whatever we give away.

V: 31 Similar to what Buddha said about 100 years before Jesus. Buddha, put it in the negative, he said, “*don't do to others what you don't want done to you*” – no power or ability. Jesus put it in the positive, He's called us to “do”, and He gave us the power of the Holy Spirit to do it.

Matthew 22:37-39 “³⁷Jesus said to him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

- Again this is a great ideal, a wonderful commandment but in the flesh it is impossible to fulfill. Unlike Buddha, Jesus doesn't just command us to do it, He also empowers us and enables us to do it.

Acts 1:8 “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Paul later reiterated:

Galatians 5:14 “All the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Galatians 6:10 “Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, especially to them who are of the household of faith.”

1 Timothy 1:5 “Now the purpose of the commandment is love out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.”

All of this is obviously very consistent with what Jesus taught us, or commanded us:

John 13:34 “A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”

V: 32-34 Continuing on the thought from V: 31 – meaning not just to love those that we love, but to love everyone, including those that we might not gravitate towards or even be likely to love – the unlovely for example.

Matthew 5:46-47 “⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁷And if you greet your brethren only, what do you more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?”

- The word love that is used in these verses is the word “agapeo” which speaks of a selfless love, and un-conditional love that expects nothing in return.
- So often our love is conditional – I'll love you if you love me – which Jesus is describing as an unloving incomplete love – He's telling us that we should love unconditionally, and that we're to love everyone.

John 13:34 “A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”

- If we love, or do good, or lend to our friends – who will do the same for us, or if there is a profit to us in some way – then we’re no different than the world.

V: 35 Contrary to what the world does, contrary to what the publicans and religious leaders do – love your enemies, do good, and lend hoping for nothing in return.

Proverbs 25:21-22 “²¹If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; ²²For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the LORD will reward you.”

- Do good, do the right thing:

Micah 6:8 “He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

“... *and you will be sons of the Most High,...*”

- Certainly this is the reward for such behavior, but considering the many other verses that speak of “if you do this...., then you will be the sons of God, or the children of God – these things then constitute as John the Baptist put it the fruit of repentance, the proof of repentance and a changed life.

Jesus elaborates:

Matthew 5:45 “That you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”

“*For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.*” (Biggest challenge for us)

- God is our example, He is kind to the unthankful and the evil, as we seek to emulate Him that is what we will do as well.

V: 36 In light of all that – be merciful, just as God our Father has been merciful to us.

Exodus 34:6-7 “⁶And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, the Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, ⁷keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...”

- The first word that God uses to describe Himself is “merciful” – because He abounds in mercy and goodness.

In demonstration of His mercy:

Psalms 103:10 “He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities.”

- Because God has been merciful to us, we should be merciful to others.

Jesus speaks a parable:

Matthew 18:23-35 turn to

Matthew 5:7 “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.”

V: 37 Judge not, and you shall not be judged by God.

Matthew 7:2 “For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged: and with what measure you use, it will be measured aback to you.”

- Progressing to the next logical step: first judge not, then condemn not – often times our judgment can be harsh – but if we don’t condemn, we won’t be condemned – this means we have to change our perspective, we have to have a different attitude.
- We have to allow room for more information, maybe they’re just having a bad day, or some other information that we’re not aware of, we shouldn’t jump to conclusions, seeking to be gracious just as our God is gracious.

Philippians 2:5 “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

“Forgive and you shall be forgiven:”

- This is a conditional statement.

Matthew 6:14-15 “¹⁴For **if** you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: ¹⁵But **if** you don’t forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

V: 38 This verse is often used as an exhortation for tithing and giving to the church – for which there is application, but that is not the primary focus of the verse.

- This verse speaks to being generous in general, not being stingy with our resources, blessing others.

Galatians 6:10 “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

Warning:

Psalms 109:17 “As he loved cursing, so let it come to him; as he did not delight in blessing, so let it be far from him.”

- For with the measure that we measure it out, so shall it be measured back to us.

- When our Lord says “give” - that’s an imperative, an authoritative command with an expected immediate action. From verse 27 through to verse 38 there are 17 imperatives, 13 are positive, 4 are negative. (Review) 
- This is your shopping list for life. Notice that the first imperative “love” and the last imperative “give” are the only two that are repeated, loving and giving present the two greatest challenges.
- These last couple of verses relate that we will reap not just what we sow; but the way we sow.

Galatians 6:7-8 “**7**Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that he will also reap. **8**For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

V: 39 A rhetorical question: just to put it in perspective, in those days they didn’t necessarily have a proper sewer system, that’s what the ditches were for.

- It’s really important that somebody has to be able to see, to have understanding.
- Unless we’ve seen the light, understood the truth – we can’t help others to see it or understand it – we can’t give what we don’t have.
- If you’re out in the open water, unless you know how to swim you can’t help someone who is drowning.

That is why Jesus referred to the religious leaders:

Matthew 15:14 “Let them alone: they are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”

Psalms 119:18 “Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”

V: 40 The disciple is not above his teacher: not only should we expect the same treatment – we shouldn’t seek to rise above as some have in “higher” critical thought – putting themselves in the place of God, or of judging God, judging His word and or His motives.

- As our Master & teacher willingly laid down His life, we’re called to do the same.

Philippians 2:8 “And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

- If we have received His instruction, being perfectly trained, then we will be more and more like Him, being conformed into His image.

V: 41-42 We need to be willing to examine ourselves before we examine others, and we need to deal with our own issues which should keep us busy enough, probably keep us out of other people's business.

Psalm 139:23-24 “²³Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

V: 43-45 Good tree's bring forth good fruit, bad trees bring forth bad fruit.

Matthew 12:33 “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit.”

- Even if it looks good, if it comes from a bad tree – it's bad fruit.
- Men are like trees in that sense: good men ([only those in Christ Jesus are good](#)) bring forth good fruit – evil men bring forth evil fruit.
- Our words are very often an indication of where our hearts are:

Matthew 15:18-19 “¹⁸But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. ¹⁹For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”

Psalm 19:14 “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditations of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my Strength, and my Redeemer.”

V: 46 Good question! We can call Him Lord all day long, but unless we are obedient to the things He says – we're not His servants, and He's not our Lord.

James 1:22-24 “²²But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. ²³For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a mirror: ²⁴For he beholds himself, and goes his way, and straightway forgets what manner of man he was.”

Matthew 7:21-23 “²¹Not every one that says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of My Father which is in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name? And in Your name have cast out devils? And in Your name done many wonderful works? ²³And then will I declare to them, I never knew you: depart from Me, you that work iniquity.”

John 14:15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

- Poem by **Geoffrey O Hara**.

*“Ye call me the “Way” and walk me not.
Ye call me the “Life” and live me not.
Ye call me “Master” and obey me not,
If I condemn thee, blame me not.*

*Ye call me “Bread” and eat me not.
Ye call me “Truth” and believe me not.
Ye call me “Lord” and serve me not.
If I condemn thee, blame me not.”*

V: 47-49 Contrast between obedience and disobedience, wisdom and foolishness, a house that stands, and a house that falls.

- So important that our foundation be upon the Rock; when it truly is – our lives will not be shaken, we will not be moved away from our faith.

Ephesians 2:19-20 “¹⁹Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.”

1 Peter 2:6 “Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”

- In other words we need to build our lives upon Jesus, He is our sure foundation, our precious cornerstone.

Isaiah 28:16 “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily.”

- It begins by entering into a personal relationship with Him. Coming to God on His terms.

John 14:6 “Jesus said, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no man comes unto the Father but by Me.”