

*Deeper Riches: Luke Bible Study*  
**Week 6 - Luke 6:12-49**

**Before you begin...**

Jesus' ministry in Galilee is in full swing. We have seen him traveling from town to town, teaching in synagogues, homes and even boats, proclaiming "the good news about the kingdom of God." Crowds of people have gathered, not only because of the miracles of healing and deliverance, but they have come to hear what he has to say.

As Luke's readers, however, so far we have largely been kept in the dark about Jesus' teaching. Aren't you hungry to hear what the people have been hearing in Galilee? This week Luke is finally going to peel back the curtain and let us receive more of the teachings of Jesus.

As we head into this famous passage, which is sometimes called "the Sermon on the Plain," remember the context. Just when the Pharisees were accusing Jesus of being a law breaker because he showed a new kind of compassion to the sick and to sinners, Jesus set a standard of behavior for his followers. If you were expecting it to be easy, you may be in for a surprise.

As you study this week, consider: How would Jesus' teaching have challenged the thinking of his audience? What does it really mean to follow Jesus? What kinds of things do you need to believe about God in order to obey these words of Jesus?

*God, teach me what it really means to follow Jesus. Give me the faith to believe what I need to believe in order to live as you call me to live. Use the words of Jesus to shine a light into my heart this week. I want to live for you, but I need you to lead me and help me by the power of your Holy Spirit.*

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalm 139:23-24 NIV)

**Day 1 - Luke 6:12-19**

1. **Read Luke 6:12-19.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or **ideas**

If you prefer to take some time to write out more observations, try using the Observation Guides at [DeeperRiches.com/Luke](http://DeeperRiches.com/Luke) or write out your observations and thoughts in a journal.

2. Based on the verses before and after **Luke 6:12**, why do you think Jesus spent all night in prayer to God? How does Jesus' example here impact how you think about prayer?

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3. Read **Luke 6:13**. What is a *disciple*? How is an *apostle* different from a *disciple*? (You may want to find dictionary definitions.)
4. What stands out to you about the twelve apostles that Jesus chose in **Luke 6:14-16**?
5. Luke is about to record a substantial sermon from Jesus in the remainder of this chapter. Why do you think Luke makes a point to tell us there were Gentiles present (from Tyre and Sidon) in **Luke 6:17**?
6. Imagine you were present at the gathering in **Luke 6:17-19**. Describe what you might have seen, heard, and experienced.
7. How does this passage (**Luke 6:12-19**) impact your thinking about Jesus? Is there an example to follow or something you need to believe?

**Respond** to God in **prayer** based on what he has shown you.

As you wrap up today's lesson, take a few minutes to read through the brief sermon in **Luke 6:20-49** and ask God to prepare your heart to receive the words of Jesus this week.

### Day 2 - Luke 6:20-26

1. **Read Luke 6:20-26**. Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:
  - **who** is in the passage
  - **what** is said about them
  - **when** and **where**
  - **repeated words** or **ideas**
  - what is **compared** or **contrasted**
2. What do you find significant about the audience of Jesus' sermon? (Compare **Luke 6:17** and **20**.)

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3. Fill in the table based on **Luke 6:20-26**.

<b>You are blessed if you are...</b>	<b>Woe to you if you are...</b>
(Luke 6:20-23)	(Luke 6:24-26)
<b>You (will) have/be...</b>	<b>You (will) have/be...</b>
(Luke 6:20-23)	(Luke 6:24-26)

4. The greek word translated *blessed* here means “happy, blessed, or enviable.” How do the lists in the first row above compare with what you would normally consider to be “the blessed life”?

5. What else do you notice when you compare the lists in the four quadrants above?

6. Label each item in the table above as past, present or future. (Look back at the text to check your answers.) What do you notice about when each group receives their blessing?

7. Compare **Luke 6:20** with **Luke 6:24**.

- a. Is possessing the Kingdom a present or future reality according to **Luke 6:20**? How might that be a comfort to Jesus’ poor disciples today?
  
- b. Is the comfort (consolation) of the rich a present or future comfort according to **Luke 6:24**? What does this imply about their comfort in the life to come?

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8. Compare **Luke 6:22-23** with **Luke 6:26**. These verses talk about acceptance/rejection with men, but what do they imply about acceptance/rejection with God?
9. The greek word translated “woe” is an expression of grief or denunciation. Why might Jesus express grief over disciples whose lives are characterized by wealth, good food, laughter, or acceptance? Is it wrong to have these things? What point do you think Jesus is making here?
10. What do you think Jesus wants his followers to believe based on **Luke 6:20-26**? How does this encourage or challenge you personally?

**Pray** about these things.

**Day 3 - Luke 6:27-36**

1. **Read Luke 6:27-36**. Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:
- **who, what, when** and **where**
  - **repeated words** or **ideas**
  - what is **compared** or **contrasted**
2. Fill in the table based on **Luke 6:27-30**.

When people...	Jesus says I should...

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3. Looking at the first column in the table from question 2, what is the most natural way to react to each of those people/situations? How does that compare with Jesus' commands (the second column)?
4. Many ancient religions and codes of conduct had a version of the Golden Rule that went something like this: "Do not do to others what you would not want them to do to you." How is Jesus' instruction in **Luke 6:31** slightly different from this?
5. Summarize the difference between how "sinners" love, do good, and lend and how Jesus' followers are to love, do good, and lend (**Luke 6:32-35**).
6. In **Luke 6:29-34**, Jesus seems to tell his followers they should be willing to be abused, deprived, and taken advantage of. How do you feel about this?
7. God never gives us a command without also giving us a reason to obey it. According to **Luke 6:32-36**, why should Jesus' followers be willing to be treated this way? What is our motivation?
8. In **Luke 6:35**, Jesus says to "lend, expecting nothing in return," but then he immediately promises a reward. What does he mean, then, when he says "expect nothing in return?" Read **Proverbs 19:17** before answering.
9. Many people believe it is not noble to be motivated by rewards, and that you should do good to others simply because it is the right thing to do. Based on what Jesus says in **Luke 6:32-35**, would he agree or disagree with this kind of thinking? Explain.
10. In your own words, try to summarize what Jesus is really saying in **Luke 6:27-36**.
11. What do you need to believe about God in order to live like this?

**Pray** about these things.

Day 4 - Luke 6:37-42

1. **Read Luke 6:37-42.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:
  - **who, what, when** and **where**
  - **repeated words** or **ideas**
  - what is **compared** or **contrasted**
  
2. Consider Jesus' instructions in **Luke 6:37.**
  - a. According to this verse, what is the relationship between our judging/forgiveness of others and the judgement, condemnation or forgiveness we ourselves will receive from God?
  
  - b. What does our forgiveness of others indicate about how we view the forgiveness we have received from God? Consider **Luke 7:47** and **Matthew 18:23-35.**
  
  - c. Is our forgiveness from God conditional, or unconditional? Explain. (Consider also **1 John 1:9** and **Romans 2:1-8, Romans 8:1.**)
  
3. What do you learn about generosity from **Luke 6:38**?
  
4. How is judging/condemning/forgiving related to generosity?
  
5. How do these verses (**Luke 6:37-38**) relate to the Golden Rule in **Luke 6:31**?
  
6. In what specific way might Jesus be calling you to be more generous toward others? What do you need to believe about God in order to obey him in this area?
  
7. Do you think Jesus is warning or encouraging the disciples in **Luke 6:39-40**? Explain.
  
8. In **Luke 6:39-42**, circle every word related to eyesight. What do the beam of wood and the splinter represent here?
  
9. What kind of hypocrisy does Jesus warn against in **Luke 6:39-42**.

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10. Consider **Luke 6:37-42** all taken together. Is Jesus teaching that you should never point out another person's sin? Explain.
11. Where have you been most judgmental lately? The beam and the splinter are made of the same material. Consider, is there any way you have actually been guilty of that same thing?

**Pray** about these things. **Ask** the Holy Spirit to reveal your sin, including sinful judging. **Agree** with God about your sin and receive his forgiveness. **Ask** God to show mercy to the person you have been judging. **Yield** this situation to his control, and commit to obeying whatever he has pressed upon your heart to do.

### Day 5 - Luke 6:43-49

1. **Read Luke 6:43-49**. Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:
  - **who, what, when and where**
  - **repeated words or ideas**
  - what is **compared** or **contrasted**
2. Summarize **Luke 6:43-45** in your own words or draw a picture to illustrate Jesus' words.
3. Are our words a good test of what is in our hearts? Use **Luke 6:45** and **46** to explain both possible answers.
4. What kind of hypocrisy is Jesus warning against in **Luke 6:46**?
5. List the three steps of true discipleship from **Luke 6:47**. Circle the one Jesus is emphasizing here.
6. Using words or pictures, summarize **Luke 6:48-49**.

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7. How have you seen the truths of **Luke 6:48-49** play out in your own life or in the lives of others?
8. Read back over **Luke 6:20-49**. You have now heard Jesus' words. How do you need to act on them today?

**Pray** about these things.

**Pulling it all together**

1. In your own words, describe what the life of a disciple of Jesus should look like based on Jesus' instructions in Luke 6:20-49.
2. Now try to simplify your description above down to one sentence.
3. How would each part of this teaching have helped prepare the disciples and apostles for their future (as recorded in Luke and Acts)? Is it still relevant for disciples today?
4. How does this teaching of Jesus compare with the kinds of rules the Pharisees were concerned with in Luke 5:1-6:11? Which teaching is easier to follow?
5. What is your most important personal take-away from this passage? (Was there a **key verse**, a **special insight**, an **example** to follow, a new **way to pray**, something that **challenged** or **convicted** you, etc...)

In what area of your life does this seem to matter most, and how?

**P.R.A.Y. about it:**

**PRAISE.** Thank and Praise God for Who He is and what He has done. Be specific.

**REPENT.** Confess your sin to God and turn from it. Agree with God about the things that need to change. Be specific.

**ASK.** What will you ask God to do based on what He has shown you? Be specific.

**YIELD.** What will you surrender to God? How can you trust and obey Him in response to what He has shown you? Be specific.

**Small Group Discussion Guide:**

1. What is the difference between an *apostle* and a *disciple*? What stands out to you about the twelve apostles that Jesus chose in Luke 6:14-16?
2. How do Jesus' words in Luke 6:20-26 compare to what you would normally consider to be "the blessed life"?
3. The greek word translated "wœ" is an expression of grief or denunciation. Why might Jesus express grief over disciples whose lives are characterized by wealth, good food, laughter, or acceptance? Is it wrong to have these things? What point do you think Jesus is making in Luke 6:20-26?
4. What do you have to believe about God in order to love your enemy, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who persecute you?
5. In Luke 6:29-34, Jesus seems to tell his followers they should be willing to be abused, deprived, and taken advantage of. How do you feel about this?
6. God never gives us a command without also giving us a reason to obey it. According to Luke 6:32-36, why should Jesus' followers be willing to live this way? What is our motivation?
7. How does Jesus' teaching in Luke 6:37-38 challenge or encourage you personally?
8. Consider Luke 6:37-42 all taken together. Is Jesus teaching that you should never point out another person's sin?
9. How does Luke 6:43-49 impact your understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus?
10. How does this teaching of Jesus compare with the kinds of rules the Pharisees were concerned with in Luke 5:1-6:11? Which teaching is easier to follow?

What is your big take-away from this passage or this discussion? Is there anything you need to confess or yield to God in response to this Truth? What will you praise God for? What will you ask God to do?