

Let's Worship God

8th-13th October 2018

Luke



THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Monday - Luke 6:6-11 - Grace To Do The Impossible

Once more the teachings of Jesus are coming into conflict with the traditions of the Pharisees. Jesus knows the Pharisees are watching him closely, trying to find anything they can to accuse him with. But He isn't afraid of their critical eyes, because He knows He's right, and He challenges the Pharisees to prove otherwise.

Jesus makes the point that it is lawful to do works of mercy on the Sabbath day. The fourth commandment has never been meant to hurt us or to forbid us from showing kindness to others, helping those who are sick, and comforting those in trouble. We can do all these things and still keep the Sabbath holy. But we must remember to be careful not to abuse the freedom Christ has given us. There's little danger today in our making the mistake of the Pharisees and keeping the Sabbath more strictly than God intends. We are far more likely to neglect the Sabbath and not keep it holy at all. This is the sin we should guard against.

Our Lord Jesus Christ knows the thoughts of the scribes and Pharisees. This is a proof that He is God as well as man. It is also a reminder that every thought of every moment of every day is known to God. Nothing can be hid from Him.

The man with the shrivelled hand is physically incapable of stretching out his hand. But when Christ commands him to do the seemingly impossible, he doesn't stop to question or doubt, but obeys. By God's grace he is made able to stretch out his hand and be healed. Those who are dead in their sins are incapable of coming to Christ, but when Christ calls them, the Holy Spirit works in their heart, and they obey, being given the grace to do the impossible.

Questions

1. What does the fourth commandment allow?
2. How is the man able to stretch out his hand?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would keep the Sabbath holy.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6:36

Praise: Psalm 97 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Tuesday - Luke 6:12-19 - 12 Men

12 men are chosen to be Jesus' disciples and apostles by Christ Himself. Never have men been ordained who have done so much for the church and the world as these twelve apostles. When Christ chooses these men, He does it after much prayer. We must pray not only for our ministers but for our future ministers and elders and deacons. James 4:2 says "You do not have, because you do not ask God." We don't ask God to raise up a constant supply of Godly young men to fill our pulpits and to lead our churches, and so God withholds them.

We are told very little about these twelve men. Four of them are fishermen, one is a tax-collector, most are probably Galileans. Not one of them seems to be great, rich, noble, or well-connected. None of them are scribes or Pharisees. All of them are poor and uneducated. These facts bring home the point that Christ's kingdom is independent of help from the world - it is built not by might or power, but by the Holy Spirit. The only way these poor, uneducated, humble men could have turned the world upside down is if their Gospel of Christ is the the truth of God. As we work to see Christ build His Church, we must look not to the power of the world, but to the power of God.

Jesus knows that when He chooses Judas, He is choosing a traitor. So, why pick Judas? To remind us that ministers are not perfect, or even necessarily saved, just because they are ministers. We are to respect our ministers in love for the work they do, but we must not make idols of them. We must remember that they are sinful men in need of a Saviour. Judas also has a part to play in what will happen. Even the traitor is part of God's plan for our salvation.

Questions

1. What can we do about vacant congregations, lack of elders, and deacons?
2. What are the requirements of elders and ministers?
3. Why might Christ have picked Judas?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would raise up men to lead His Church.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." Luke 6:36

Praise: Psalm 98 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Wednesday -Luke 6:20-26 - Poor and Rich

Christ describes as blessed those who are poor, hungry, sad, and hated. But we must not misunderstand what He is saying. The mere fact of being poor, hungry, sorrowful, and hated by men isn't enough to claim this blessing. Jesus is talking about those who are poor, hungry, sorrowful, and hated for their faith in Him. He is saying that those who have to suffer for their trust in God will be blessed. Hardship, trial, suffering is the inevitable consequence of faith. The world hates those who love Christ. The devil attacks those who serve Christ. If this is why we are suffering, Christ tells us that we will be blessed.

We must also be careful not to misunderstand the rest of this passage. Being rich, or happy, or popular is not proof that people are not Christ's disciples. Abraham and Job were rich. David and Paul rejoiced. Timothy was well-liked. Our Lord Jesus Christ is talking about men who love the good things of this world more than the things of God. They love the joys and comfort of this world and are not willing to risk losing them for the joy of heaven. They love the praise of men more than the praise of God, and will turn their back on Christ rather than the world.

The teachings of Christ are the complete opposite of the thoughts of the world. Suffering, poverty, sadness, these are things the world works hard to avoid. Riches, happiness, popularity, these are things the world sacrifices everything to gain. What do you think? Do you really value the love of Christ, when it comes with trouble and sorrow, as better than money, happiness, and popularity without Christ?

Questions

1. What kind of people will be blessed?
2. What kind will be cursed?
3. What does the world say is important? What does Christ say?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would put Christ first in our lives.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6:36

Praise: Psalm 99 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Thursday - Luke 6:27-38 - Love

These verses are all about Christian love. Our love for others is to be like Christ's toward sinners - unselfish and uninfluenced by any hope of return, self-sacrificing and self-denying. We are to give up our rights and put up with wrong treatment in order to avoid quarrels. Like Christ, we are to be long-suffering, meek, and humble.

Jesus knows that there will be times when our duty to others will not be clear. Selfishness and emotion will cloud our judgement. At those times, when we aren't sure what to do, we are to treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves. To do to others as they do to us, and return evil for evil is the practice of unbelievers. But Christians are to be different. If Christ had dealt with the world as the world dealt with Him, we would all be on our way to Hell.

Christians are to have a higher standard of love to others than unbelievers. Even unbelievers are nice to those who are nice to them. What makes the Christian different is that he is to love others regardless of how they treat him or what they will do in return.

Christians are to follow the example of their Father in Heaven in doing good. God is merciful and generous to those who never thank Him. He does not get tired of doing good, and neither should we. Just like God, we must continue to show kindness whether we are thanked or not.

Finally, Christ assures His disciples that those who practice this unselfish and patient love will never be a loser in the long run. At times it may seem that we get nothing for doing good to others, but Christ assures us that we will be blessed and rewarded for our faithful love of others.

Questions

1. What is Christian love to be like?
2. How should we treat others when we are unsure how to treat them?
3. What will happen to those who practice Christian love?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be more loving to others.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6:36

Praise: Psalm 100 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Friday - Luke 6:39-45 - Practice What You Preach

Jesus warns us against listening to false teachers. A teacher who does not know the way to heaven himself, isn't likely to lead others to heaven. Those who listen to these teachers are in danger of being lost eternally. There are ministers throughout our country that are like these blind and false teachers, leading others astray. If we want to escape the danger of false teachers we must test everything they say by God's Word to see if what they say is true.

Those who teach others and warn them of their sins must strive to be blameless. Obviously, if no man is to teach or preach to others until he himself is perfect, there would be no teaching or preaching. The main point Jesus seems to be making here is the importance of having a consistent life. We must not say one thing and do another. This is true for all, not just ministers. How can we encourage others to turn away from sin, when we are still hanging on to it? People will not listen to those who are hypocrites.

There is only one way to test whether a man or woman has faith in Christ - through their behaviour and conversation. If a man or woman does not live a Godly life, if they have no desire to speak about the things of God, if there is no evidence of the Holy Spirit working in their life, we must question whether they are a Christian. Instead of assuming they are because of church membership, baptism, or attendance, we should pray for them earnestly and frequently that the Holy Spirit would work in their hearts and that they would show evidence of this work. We should examine our own hearts and lives as well and determine whether we are bringing forth good fruit from a believing heart.

Questions

1. How can we test our teachers?
2. Why do we need to be consistent?
3. What are signs that someone is a Christian?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of others.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." Luke 6:36

Praise: Psalm 101 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Saturday - Luke 6:46-49 - Two Foundations

Many people claim to believe in God, to be a follower of Jesus Christ, but they do not do what He commands. This evil has always existed in the Church, and it is responsible for turning many away from the truth. Men and women see the church full of hypocrites, those who say one thing and do another, and they turn away from it.

Those who hear what Christ says and obeys Him are compared to a man building a house on a firm foundation. This man's faith costs him much. A house built on a rock requires hard work and self-denial. Pride and selfishness must be put aside and the work of Christ put first. But like the house built on a rock, this faith will stand up to violent storms of trouble and persecution. A man that practices what he preaches is a building that will not fall.

In contrast to this there is the man who hears Christ's sayings but does not obey them. His faith may look well for a time. It may be hard to see a difference between him and a true Christian. They may both go to the same church and claim to believe the same things. But when the trials and persecution come, this man falls apart.

What is the foundation on which you are building? Is it rock or sand? You may enjoy going to church, you may know well what the Bible teaches, you may agree with it, but what are you doing? Do you not only hear what the Bible teaches, do you obey it? Have you put your faith in Christ? Do you live your life in obedience and love of Him? The time will come when your foundations will be revealed, and it will be obvious whether they are rock or sand.

Questions

1. How can we have a solid foundation?
2. What happens to a foundation of sand?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful." Luke 6:36

Praise: Psalm 102 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced for the RP Global Alliance
by Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

If you have any queries please contact - admin@rpglobalalliance.org