

Hearing Jesus Teach

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Study 1: Teaching about the Sabbath

Read Luke 6:1-5

1. What do Jesus' disciples do?
2. Read Deuteronomy 23:25, Deuteronomy 5:12-15 and Exodus 20:8-11. What is the problem as the Pharisees see it?
3. In his reply Jesus refers to an incident in the life of David (before he became king). Read Leviticus 24:5-9 and 1 Samuel 21:3-6. What made it ok for David to do what he did?
4. What point is Jesus making about himself by recalling this incident?
5. What claim is Jesus making about himself in the second part of his response (verse 5)?
6. What does it mean for Jesus to be lord of the Sabbath?

Read Luke 6:6-11

7. What does verse 7 reveal about the intention of the scribes and Pharisees? Do they care about the man?

8. Why do you think Jesus chooses to confront them?

9. By his question (verse 9) Jesus identifies two pairs of opposing actions, what are they?

10. What does Jesus do for the man? Why?

11. What is the response from the scribes and Pharisees? Why?

- 1. What do we learn about Jesus and the OT law here?**

- 2. Are we ever like the Pharisees, more concerned with rules than people?**

- 3. What principles can we learn about keeping God's laws?**

Study 2: Blessings and Woes

Read Luke 6:17-26

1. Where is Jesus, and what is he doing?
2. Why have the crowds come?
3. Who does Jesus address (v20)?
4. To be blessed is to receive God's favour. Complete the table below using verses 20-23.

Blessed are you...	For...	OT reference
Who are poor		
Who are hungry		Isaiah 55:1-2
Who weep		Isaiah 61:1-3
Who are hated, excluded, reviled & spurned for Jesus' sake		Isaiah 55:7-8

5. Look carefully at the verses again. Which of the blessings are now, and which are in the future?
6. Look up the OT references. How do they help us understand further the blessings Jesus promises?
7. "Woe!" Is not so much a declaration of judgment as a cry of regret. More like "Alas!" Now complete the table for the corresponding woes using verses 24-26.

Woe to you...	For...
Who are rich	
Who are well fed	
Who laugh	
Who are well regarded	

8. Jesus was accused of gluttony, he had rich friends and at times all spoke well of him! So what warnings are being given here?

1. Why do we so often think of God's blessing in terms of wealth and happiness?

2. When we consider these blessings and woes together, what are God's priorities for his people?

3. How can we help each other to seek these blessings?

Study 3: Relating to Others

Read Luke 6:27-45

1. Who is Jesus addressing in this section?

2. What principle is given in verse 31?

3. What motivation is given in verse 36?

4. Take time to unpack verses 27-28 together. Give examples of what it means in practice for you to :
 - a. Love your enemies

 - b. Do good to those who hate you

 - c. Bless those who curse you

 - d. Pray for those who mistreat you

5. Consider Jesus' challenge in verses 32-34 "what benefit/credit is it to you?" What motivates the actions of unbelievers? What is to be different about our motivations?

6. What reward is given to those who follow Jesus' instruction? How great is that to you?

7. Verse 37 is often quoted to suggest we shouldn't be critical or call behavior wrong. Taken in its context here (v26-28), what is Jesus teaching us?

8. How does the parable in verses 41-42 further help us apply verses 36-38?

**1. Do your actions and speech mark you as a "good person" (v45)?
How can our hearts be made good?**

2. The attitudes and actions Jesus commands in this section go completely against our sinful, human nature. How can we help each other to obey?

3. Pray for our fellow believers who are presently undergoing great persecution (eg in Iraq, Syria & Nigeria), that God will enable them to follow Jesus' command to love and bless.

Study 4: Jesus on John

First we need to know what Luke has already told us about John the Baptist.

Read Luke 1:13-17, Luke 1:76-77, Luke 3:1-3 and Luke 3:15-20.

1. What role has God given to John?
2. What expectations does John have of Jesus?

Read Luke 7:18-35

3. What causes John to have doubts?
4. What reply does Jesus give?
5. Read Isaiah 35:3-6 and Isaiah 61:1-2. How does this background help us better understand Jesus' response?
6. Who does Jesus say John is? (See Malachi 3:1-5). So what is Jesus saying about himself?

7. What makes John so great (v28)? In what way are the least in the kingdom greater?

8. What is the connection between the people's response to John and their response to Jesus?

9. Compare the lifestyles of John and Jesus (v33,34). How have the "people of this generation" responded to John? To Jesus? So what is Jesus' judgement of them?

Note on verse 35: This is a cryptic little saying. I think it means that both John and Jesus were righteous/justified in their respective approaches to life – each fulfilling God's intention for them. Those who are wise will recognize that.

1. Do you ever wonder if Jesus really is God's saviour? How can we be sure?

2. How can today's passage help us begin to answer our friends who might ask whether Jesus is "the one"?

3. John was confused because he expected salvation and judgement to come together. Jesus has brought salvation, so the promised judgement is still to come. How can we be ready for when Jesus comes as judge?

Study 5: Following the Christ

Read Luke 9:18-27

1. Luke often reports Jesus withdrawing to pray. Why do you think Jesus does this?
2. What have the crowds concluded about Jesus?
3. What has Peter concluded?
4. See Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11, Micah 5:1-4 and Zephaniah 3:14-20. What expectations would the people have of the Messiah/Christ?
5. What does Jesus say it means to be the Christ?

6. How would the disciples have felt when Jesus told them what must happen to him?

7. Jesus goes on to tell them what it will mean for them. What must they do?

8. What promises are given?

9. What warnings are given?

1. Who do you say Jesus is?

2. What will it look like in practice to deny yourself , daily take up your cross and follow Jesus?

3. Are you ever ashamed of Jesus and his words?

4. How can we help each other live for Jesus not ourselves?

Study 6: For and Against

Read Luke 9:43-50

1. Why do you think Jesus chooses this moment to speak of his rejection?
2. What are the disciples concerned with?
3. What does Jesus teach them about greatness?
4. What problem did John have with the man they saw casting out demons?
5. What priority does Jesus have?

Read Luke 9:51-56

6. What is the Samaritans' attitude to Jesus?
7. What do you think of James & John's response? See 2 Kings 1. Does this account from Israel's history make a difference to your answer?
8. Why does Jesus rebuke James & John?

Read Luke 9:57-62

9. Consider carefully Jesus' conversations with each of the 3 men. What is Jesus teaching them about following him?

a. "I will follow you wherever you go"

b. "Let me first go and bury my father"

c. "Let me first say farewell" (Compare 1Kings 19:19-21)

1. Here we see the disciples confused about Jesus' mission, jostling for status, jealous for their position and vengeful when slighted. Are we ever like them? Do we need to hear a rebuke from Jesus?

2. What do we learn from Jesus' teaching and example about how to relate to those who are against him?

3. Which of the 3 men in verse 57-62 is most like you? What is Jesus saying to you today about following him?

Study 7: Two Mission Trips

Read Luke 9:1-6 and Luke 10:1-16

1. Use the table below to compare the two missions.

	Luke 9:1-6	Luke 10:1-11
Message		
Method		
Equipment		
If accepted...		
If rejected...		

2. What differences do you notice?

3. What responses does Jesus expect?

4. Whose message do they bring?

Read Luke 10:17-24

5. What report do they bring back?

6. What are they to rejoice the most over?

7. What does Jesus praise his Father for?

8. What makes the disciples blessed?

1. How are you involved in praying and going into the harvest field?

2. Do we rejoice over the same things as Jesus?

3. Consider how blessed we are to see what we see!

Study 8: Woe!

When Jesus dines at a Pharisees' home, the host is astonished that Jesus doesn't wash before eating. This isn't a matter of hygiene, but rather a ritual washing to symbolize cleansing from defilement. This prompts Jesus to launch a series of stinging criticisms of the Pharisees and then the scribes.

Read Luke 11:37-54

A: Verses 39-41

1. What are the Pharisees concerned about?
2. Why does Jesus call them fools?
3. What does Jesus say their attitude should be?

B: Verse 44

4. What are the Pharisees concerned about? (See Leviticus 27:30)
5. What are they neglecting? (See Deut 6:5, Micah 6:8)

C: Verse 43

6. What are the Pharisees concerned about?
7. Why do you think Jesus says "Woe!"? (See Psalm 18:27)

D: Verse 44

8. What happens to a Jew when they go over a grave (Numbers 19:16)?

9. What is Jesus saying about the affect of the Pharisees?

E: Verse 46

10. What are the scribes doing wrong?

F: Verses 47-51

11. Able (Genesis 4:8) and Zechariah (2 Chronicles 24:20-21) are the first and last godly Old Testament figures to be murdered. What does Jesus accuse the scribes of? Does this seem fair to you?

G: Verse 52

12. What are the scribes doing wrong?

13. How do the Pharisees and scribes respond to Jesus?

1. Which of these attitudes or actions have you come across amongst Christians?

2. Which of these attitudes or actions do you need to repent of?

3. What does godliness look like according to Jesus here?

Study 9: Words of Comfort

Read Luke 12:1-12

1. Jesus uses the image of yeast (leaven) to warn against the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. What is suggested by that image?
2. How does disclosure combat hypocrisy?
3. Who are we to not fear? Why?
4. Who are we to fear? Why?
5. Jesus says “Fear God” and “Don’t be afraid”. How do we hold these two statements together?
6. What warning and promise is given in verses 8-9? How might we deny/disown Jesus?
7. What does it mean to blaspheme the Holy Spirit? Why is there no forgiveness for this?

8. In verse 11, what does Jesus expect will happen? What is his assurance?

Read Luke 12:21-34

9. What are we to learn from the birds?

10. What are we to learn from the wildflowers?

11. What are we to set our hearts on and seek?

1. How are we able to stop worrying about our day-to-day needs?

2. What will it mean for you to seek God's kingdom and store up heavenly treasure?

3. Look back over the 9 studies in this series. Share one thing Jesus has taught you.