CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Luke Chapter 6 —
The Way of the Kingdom

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Luke Chapter 6 shows the way of the kingdom.

Jesus begins by showing that He is Lord of the Sabbath and that mercy matters more than empty ritual.

He heals a man's shriveled hand, and the religious leaders grow furious.

After a night of prayer, He chooses twelve apostles.

Then He comes down to a level place and teaches His disciples how life in God's kingdom works.

This teaching is often called the Sermon on the Plain.

It is similar to the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew.

Jesus turns the world's values upside down.

The poor are blessed.

Enemies are loved.

Judging is replaced by mercy.

Words must be matched by obedience.

And a life is only as strong as its foundation.

The chapter moves through nine movements:

- Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath (verses 1–5).
- The Man with the Withered Hand (verses 6–11).
- The Choosing of the Twelve Apostles (verses 12–16).
- Blessings and Woes (verses 17–26).
- Love for Enemies (verses 27–36).
- Judging Others (verses 37–38).
- Parables of Guidance and Self-Examination (verses 39–42).
- A Tree and Its Fruit (verses 43–45).
- The Wise and Foolish Builders (verses 46–49).

The central truth of Luke 6 is:

Jesus is Lord, and the way of His kingdom calls His followers to show mercy, love their enemies, examine their own hearts, and build their lives on obeying His words.

I. THROUGH THE GRAINFIELDS

Luke 6:1 — Picking Grain on the Sabbath

“One Sabbath, as Jesus walked through the grainfields, His disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands, and eat them.”

“One Sabbath.”

The Sabbath was the day of rest God gave Israel.

“His disciples began to pick some heads of grain.”

The law allowed hungry travelers to pick grain by hand from a neighbor's field.

“Rub them in their hands, and eat them.”

Some teachers considered rubbing grain a form of work, like threshing.

The disciples were simply hungry.

Cross References

Matthew 12:1

> At that time Jesus walked through the grainfields on a Sabbath. His followers were hungry, so they began to pick grain and eat it.

Mark 2:23

> One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as His followers walked along, they began picking heads of grain.

Deuteronomy 23:25

> When you walk through your neighbor's grainfield, you may pick heads of grain with your hands, but you must not cut his grain with a sickle.

Spiritual Principle

God's law was given to meet human needs, not to burden them.

Key Truth

The disciples did nothing God's law forbade.

II. WHY ARE YOU DOING WHAT IS UNLAWFUL?

Luke 6:2 — The Pharisees' Question

“Some Pharisees asked, “Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?””

“Some Pharisees asked.”

They were watching closely.

“Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

They meant unlawful according to their traditions.

Many had built careful rules around God's command to rest.

Their goal was to protect the Sabbath.

But the rules had grown heavier than God intended.

Cross References

Matthew 12:2

> When the Pharisees saw this, they said, “Look! Your followers are doing what the law says is not allowed on the Sabbath.”

Mark 2:24

> The Pharisees said to Jesus, “Why are Your followers doing something not allowed on the Sabbath?”

Exodus 20:10

> The seventh day is a day of rest for the Lord your God. On that day no one in your house may do any work.

Spiritual Principle

Human rules can bury the purpose of God's commands.

Spiritual Warning

Beware of adding rules to God's Word and treating them as if they were His.

III. HAVE YOU NEVER READ?

Luke 6:3 — What David Did

“Jesus answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry?”

“Have you never read?”

They knew Scripture well.

But they had missed its heart.

“What David did when he and his companions were hungry.”

Jesus pointed to Israel's greatest king.

Human need mattered to God.

Cross References

Matthew 12:3

> He answered, “Haven't you read what David did when he and those with him were hungry?”

Mark 2:25

> Jesus answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and his men were hungry and in need?”

1 Samuel 21:1

> David went to Nob to see Ahimelech the priest. Ahimelech trembled when he met David and asked, “Why are you alone? Why is no one with you?”

Spiritual Principle

Scripture must be read for its heart, not just its rules.

Key Truth

It is possible to know the Bible and miss its meaning.

IV. THE SACRED BREAD

Luke 6:4 — David and His Companions

“He entered the house of God, took the sacred bread of the Presence, which only the priests are allowed to eat, and gave some to his companions.””

“He entered the house of God.”

“Took the sacred bread of the Presence.”

Twelve loaves set before God each week.

“Which only the priests are allowed to eat.”

Yet David ate it, and the priest gave it to him.

Scripture does not condemn him.

Mercy to hungry people mattered more than ritual.

Cross References

Matthew 12:4

> He went into God's house and ate the holy bread that only priests were allowed to eat.

Mark 2:26

> He entered God's house when Abiathar was high priest and ate the bread set before God.

1 Samuel 21:6

> So the priest gave him the holy bread, because there was no other bread there except the bread that had been removed from before the Lord and replaced with hot bread.

Spiritual Principle

Mercy outweighs ritual.

Key Truth

God cares about people more than procedures.

V. LORD OF THE SABBATH

Luke 6:5 — The Son of Man

“Then He said to them, “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.””

“The Son of Man.”

Jesus.

“Is Lord of the Sabbath.”

God made the Sabbath.

Jesus claimed authority over it.

This was a claim to be God.

The Sabbath points to rest, and true rest is found in Him.

Cross References

Matthew 12:8

> The Son of Man is the Master of the Sabbath.

Mark 2:28

> So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath day.

Exodus 20:8

> Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is Lord over all things, including God's holy day.

Key Truth

Real rest is found in the Lord of the Sabbath.

VI. A SHRIVELED HAND

Luke 6:6 — On Another Sabbath

“On another Sabbath, He went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled.”

“He went into the synagogue and was teaching.”

Jesus kept worshiping and teaching.

“A man was there whose right hand was shriveled.”

Luke the doctor notes it was his right hand.

Probably the hand he worked with.

His disability likely affected his ability to earn a living.

Cross References

Matthew 12:10

> A man with a crippled hand was there.

Mark 3:1

> Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a withered hand was there.

Mark 3:3

> Jesus said to the man with the crippled hand, “Stand up here in the middle.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus notices those who are suffering.

Key Truth

Hurting people are often present in places of worship.

VII. WATCHING CLOSELY

Luke 6:7 — Hoping to Accuse

“The scribes and Pharisees watched closely to see if He would heal on the Sabbath, hoping to find a reason to accuse Him.”

“Watched closely.”

Not to learn.

To catch Him.

“Hoping to find a reason to accuse Him.”

They were more concerned with finding fault than with the man's suffering.

A heart set on criticism cannot see God at work.

Cross References

Matthew 12:10

> Looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, they asked, “Is it right to heal on the Sabbath?”

Mark 3:2

> Some were watching Jesus closely to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so they could accuse Him.

John 9:16

> Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.”

Spiritual Principle

A critical spirit blinds us to God's work.

Spiritual Warning

It is possible to sit in worship looking for faults instead of looking for God.

VIII. STAND UP HERE

Luke 6:8 — In Front of Everyone

“But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to the man, “Stand up here in front of everyone.” So he stood.”

“Jesus knew their thoughts.”

Nothing is hidden from Him.

“Stand up here in front of everyone.”

Jesus did not hide what He was about to do.

He acted openly.

“So he stood.”

The man obeyed, even in front of critics.

Cross References

Mark 3:3

> Jesus told the man, “Get up and stand here where everyone can see.”

John 2:24

> Jesus did not trust Himself to them, because He knew all people.

Matthew 9:4

> Jesus knew what they were thinking.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus acts openly and with courage.

Key Truth

Obedience may require standing up in front of others.

IX. TO DO GOOD OR TO DO EVIL?

Luke 6:9 — To Save Life or Destroy It

“Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you: is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?””

“To do good or to do evil.”

Refusing to do good when we can is a kind of evil.

“To save life or to destroy it.”

Jesus wanted to restore a life.

His critics were planning to destroy His.

The question exposed their hearts.

Cross References

Matthew 12:12

> A human being is worth far more than a sheep! So doing good on the Sabbath is allowed.

Mark 3:4

> Jesus asked, “What does the law allow on the Sabbath: helping or harming, rescuing a life or ending it?” They said nothing.

John 7:23

> If a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath to keep the law of Moses, why are you angry with Me for making a whole man well on the Sabbath?

Spiritual Principle

Doing good is always right in God's eyes.

Key Truth

Failing to do good when we can is not neutral.

X. STRETCH OUT YOUR HAND

Luke 6:10 — Completely Restored

“He looked around at them all and then said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was completely restored.”

“He looked around at them all.”

A silent challenge.

“Stretch out your hand.”

The very thing he could not do.

“He did so.”

He obeyed, and power came with the command.

“His hand was completely restored.”

Jesus did no work that anyone could call breaking the Sabbath.

He only spoke.

Cross References

Matthew 12:13

> He told the man, “Hold out your hand.” He held it out, and it was made healthy, just like the other one.

Mark 3:5

> He looked around at them angrily, deeply saddened by their stubborn hearts, and said, “Stretch out your hand.” He did, and it was healed.

1 Kings 13:6

> The man of God prayed to the Lord, and the king's hand was restored and became as it was before.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' commands carry the power to obey them.

Key Truth

When Jesus says, “Stretch out,” He gives the strength to do it.

XI. THEY WERE FURIOUS

Luke 6:11 — What to Do to Jesus

“But they were furious and began to discuss what they might do to Jesus.”

“They were furious.”

A man was healed, and they were angry.

“Began to discuss what they might do to Jesus.”

The opposition was growing.

This anger would eventually lead toward the cross.

Religion without mercy can become cruel.

Cross References

Matthew 12:14

> The Pharisees went out and made plans to kill Jesus.

Mark 3:6

> The Pharisees went out and began making plans with the Herodians about how to kill Jesus.

John 11:53

> From that day on they planned to put Him to death.

Spiritual Principle

Hard hearts resist even God's mercy.

Spiritual Warning

Anger at God's goodness reveals a hardened heart.

XII. A NIGHT OF PRAYER

Luke 6:12 — Praying to God

“One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray and spent the night praying to God.”

“Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray.”

Facing opposition, Jesus turned to prayer.

“And spent the night praying to God.”

The whole night.

He was about to make one of His most important decisions.

Choosing the twelve.

Big decisions call for serious prayer.

Cross References

Matthew 14:23

> He went up on a mountain alone to pray.

Mark 3:13

> Jesus went up on a mountain and called to Him those He wanted, and they came to Him.

Mark 1:35

> Early in the morning, Jesus went to a lonely place, and there He prayed.

Spiritual Principle

Important decisions should be made in prayer.

Application

What decision are you facing that needs more prayer?

XIII. HE CHOSE TWELVE

Luke 6:13 — Designated Apostles

“When morning came, He called His disciples and chose twelve of them, whom He also designated apostles:”

“He called His disciples.”

A larger group followed Him.

“And chose twelve of them.”

Twelve, like the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jesus was forming a new people of God.

“Whom He also designated apostles.”

An apostle is one who is sent with a message.

Cross References

Matthew 10:1

> Jesus called His twelve followers together and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease.

Mark 3:14

> He appointed twelve, whom He named apostles, so they could be with Him and so He could send them out to preach.

Mark 3:13

> He called those He wanted, and they came to Him.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus chooses and sends His people.

Key Truth

The apostles were chosen after a night of prayer.

XIV. SIMON, ANDREW, JAMES, JOHN, PHILIP, BARTHOLOMEW

Luke 6:14 — The First Six

“Simon (whom He named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew,”

“Simon (whom He named Peter).”

Peter means “rock.”

Jesus saw what Simon would become.

“His brother Andrew.”

Andrew brought Peter to Jesus.

“James, John.”

The sons of Zebedee.

“Philip, Bartholomew.”

Bartholomew may be the same as Nathanael in John's Gospel.

Cross References

Matthew 10:2

> These are the names of the twelve apostles: first Simon, called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John.

Mark 3:16

> These are the twelve He chose: Simon, to whom He gave the name Peter.

John 1:42

> Andrew brought Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas,” which means Peter.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus sees what we can become.

Key Truth

Jesus gave Simon a new name and a new identity.

XV. MATTHEW, THOMAS, JAMES, SIMON

Luke 6:15 — An Unlikely Mix

“Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon called the Zealot,”

“Matthew.”

The former tax collector who worked for Rome.

“Thomas.”

Later known for his doubts and his great confession.

“Simon called the Zealot.”

Zealots wanted to overthrow Rome.

A tax collector and a Zealot in the same group.

Only Jesus could bring them together.

Cross References

Matthew 10:3

> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus.

Mark 3:18

> Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot.

Acts 1:13

> Those present were Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus unites people who would otherwise be enemies.

Key Truth

In Jesus, a tax collector and a revolutionary became brothers.

XVI. JUDAS ISCARIOT

Luke 6:16 — Who Later Became a Traitor

“Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who later became a traitor.”

“Judas son of James.”

Also called Thaddaeus in Matthew and Mark.

“And Judas Iscariot.”

He was chosen, taught, and trusted like the others.

“Who later became a traitor.”

He saw the miracles and heard the teaching.

Yet he betrayed Jesus.

Being near Jesus is not the same as belonging to Him.

Cross References

Matthew 10:4

> Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.

Mark 3:19

> And Judas Iscariot, the one who handed Jesus over.

John 6:71

> He was talking about Judas son of Simon Iscariot, one of the twelve, who would later betray Him.

Spiritual Principle

Closeness to Jesus is not the same as faithfulness to Him.

Spiritual Warning

It is possible to be among Jesus' followers and still betray Him.

XVII. ON A LEVEL PLACE

Luke 6:17 — A Large Crowd

“Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of His disciples and people from all over Judea, Jerusalem, and the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon had come to hear Him and be healed of their diseases.”

“Jesus came down with them.”

From the mountain of prayer to the plain of ministry.

“Stood on a level place.”

Jesus met people where they were.

“From all over Judea, Jerusalem, and… Tyre and Sidon.”

Jews and Gentiles.

People came from far away.

“To hear Him and be healed.”

They needed both His words and His power.

Cross References

Matthew 4:25

> Large crowds followed Him from Galilee, the Ten Towns, Jerusalem, Judea, and the land across the Jordan.

Mark 3:8

> Many people came from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, across the Jordan, and around Tyre and Sidon, because they heard what He was doing.

Matthew 5:1

> When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on a hill and sat down. His followers came to Him.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus comes down to meet people in their need.

Key Truth

People came for healing, but Jesus gave them truth as well.

XVIII. IMPURE SPIRITS CURED

Luke 6:18 — Set Free

“Those troubled by impure spirits were cured,”

Jesus set people free from evil spirits.

No power of darkness could stand before Him.

He healed both body and spirit.

Cross References

Mark 3:11

> Whenever evil spirits saw Him, they fell down and shouted, “You are the Son of God!”

Matthew 4:24

> People brought Him all who were sick with various diseases, those in great pain, those with demons, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and He healed them.

Acts 5:16

> Crowds came from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those troubled by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus has power over every evil force.

Key Truth

No one is too troubled for Jesus to set free.

XIX. POWER WAS COMING FROM HIM

Luke 6:19 — Healing Them All

“and the people all tried to touch Him, because power was coming from Him and healing them all.”

“The people all tried to touch Him.”

Desperate faith.

“Power was coming from Him.”

God's power flowed through Jesus.

“And healing them all.”

Not some.

All.

Cross References

Mark 5:30

> At once Jesus felt that power had gone out from Him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched My clothes?”

Matthew 14:36

> They begged Him to let the sick just touch the edge of His cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

Mark 3:10

> He had healed many, so all who were sick pushed forward to touch Him.

Spiritual Principle

The power of God is in Jesus.

Key Truth

Reaching out to Jesus is never wasted.

XX. BLESSED ARE YOU WHO ARE POOR

Luke 6:20 — Looking at His Disciples

“Looking at His disciples, He said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.”

“Looking at His disciples.”

This teaching was for His followers.

“Blessed are you.”

Blessed means truly happy, favored by God.

“Who are poor.”

Many of Jesus' followers were truly poor.

They had left everything.

Poverty is not a virtue in itself, but the poor often know their need of God.

“For yours is the kingdom of God.”

They had the greatest treasure.

Cross References

Matthew 5:1

> Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain. After He sat down, His followers came to Him.

Matthew 5:2

> Then He began to teach them.

Mark 3:13

> He went up on the mountainside and called to Him those He wanted.

Spiritual Principle

God's kingdom belongs to those who know their need.

Key Truth

The poor in this world can be rich in God's kingdom.

XXI. HUNGER NOW, WEEP NOW

Luke 6:21 — You Will Be Satisfied, You Will Laugh

“Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.”

“Blessed are you who hunger now.”

Physically hungry and spiritually hungry.

“For you will be satisfied.”

God will fill them.

“Blessed are you who weep now.”

Those who grieve and suffer.

“For you will laugh.”

Sorrow is not the end.

Notice the word “now.”

The present hardship is temporary.

God's future reversal is certain.

Cross References

Matthew 5:6

> Blessed are those who long to do what is right as much as they long for food and water, because God will fill them.

Matthew 5:4

> Blessed are those who are sad now, because God will comfort them.

Psalm 126:5

> Those who plant seeds with tears will bring in the harvest with shouts of joy.

Spiritual Principle

God will reverse the sorrows of His people.

Key Truth

Present tears will turn into future joy.

XXII. WHEN PEOPLE HATE YOU

Luke 6:22 — Because of the Son of Man

“Blessed are you when people hate you, exclude you, insult you, and reject your name as evil because of the Son of Man.”

“When people hate you, exclude you, insult you.”

Following Jesus can bring rejection.

“And reject your name as evil.”

Your reputation may suffer.

“Because of the Son of Man.”

The blessing is for suffering because of Jesus.

Not for suffering because of our own wrongdoing.

Cross References

Matthew 5:11

> You are blessed when people mock you, hurt you, and tell all sorts of lies about you because you belong to Me.

1 Peter 4:14

> When people abuse you because you bear Christ's name, count yourself blessed. It shows that God's glorious Spirit is resting on you.

John 15:19

> If you were part of the world, the world would love you as one of its own. But I picked you out of the world, and you are no longer part of it. That is the reason the world hates you.

Spiritual Principle

Suffering for Christ is a mark of blessing.

Key Truth

Rejection for Jesus' sake is honored in heaven.

XXIII. LEAP FOR JOY

Luke 6:23 — Great Is Your Reward

“Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.””

“Rejoice in that day and leap for joy.”

Not just endure.

Rejoice.

“Because great is your reward in heaven.”

Heaven sees and rewards.

“That is how their ancestors treated the prophets.”

Those who suffer for God stand with the prophets.

They are in good company.

Cross References

Matthew 5:12

> Be glad and full of joy, because you have a great reward in heaven. People treated the prophets who lived before you the same way.

James 1:2

> My brothers and sisters, when you face all kinds of troubles, think of it as a reason for joy.

Acts 5:41

> The apostles left the council full of joy, because they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for the name of Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

Believers can rejoice even in persecution.

Key Truth

Heaven's reward outweighs earth's rejection.

XXIV. WOE TO YOU WHO ARE RICH

Luke 6:24 — Already Received Your Comfort

“But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.”

“But woe.”

A word of warning and sorrow.

“To you who are rich.”

Riches are not sinful in themselves.

But they are dangerous when they replace God.

“For you have already received your comfort.”

If wealth is all you have, you already have all you will get.

Jesus speaks to those who trust in riches and ignore God and the needy.

Cross References

James 5:1

> Now listen, you rich people. Cry and moan because of the troubles that are coming to you.

Luke 16:25

> Abraham said, “Child, remember that in your lifetime you received good things, while Lazarus received bad things. Now he is comforted here, and you are in pain.”

1 Timothy 6:17

> Warn people who have a lot of money in this life not to look down on others or to trust in riches that can disappear. They should trust in God, who generously provides everything for us to enjoy.

Spiritual Principle

Trusting in riches leaves the soul empty.

Spiritual Warning

Do not let comfort in this life replace hope in God.

XXV. WOE TO THE WELL FED

Luke 6:25 — Those Who Laugh Now

“Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.”

“Woe to you who are well fed now.”

Satisfied with this world.

“For you will go hungry.”

“Woe to you who laugh now.”

Careless laughter that ignores God and the suffering of others.

“For you will mourn and weep.”

The blessings and woes mirror each other.

God will reverse the present order.

Cross References

Isaiah 65:13

> My servants will eat, but you will be hungry. My servants will drink, but you will be thirsty. My servants will be glad, but you will be ashamed.

James 4:9

> Be sad, cry, and weep! Change your laughter into crying and your joy into gloom.

Amos 6:4

> You lie on beds decorated with ivory and stretch out on your couches. You eat tender lambs and fattened calves.

Spiritual Principle

Self-satisfied comfort is spiritually dangerous.

Key Truth

God sees those who enjoy plenty while ignoring the needy.

XXVI. WHEN EVERYONE SPEAKS WELL OF YOU

Luke 6:26 — The False Prophets

“Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.””

“When everyone speaks well of you.”

Popularity can be a warning sign.

If everyone approves, you may be telling people only what they want to hear.

“That is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.”

False prophets were popular.

True prophets were rejected.

Cross References

Jeremiah 5:31

> The prophets speak lies, the priests rule by their own power, and My people love it this way.

Micah 2:11

> If a liar comes and says, “I will preach to you about wine and beer,” he would be just the prophet for these people!

Matthew 7:15

> Watch out for false prophets. They come to you looking gentle like sheep, but inside they are hungry wolves.

Spiritual Principle

Faithfulness matters more than popularity.

Spiritual Warning

Universal praise may mean we are not telling the whole truth.

XXVII. LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Luke 6:27 — Do Good to Those Who Hate You

“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,”

“But to you who are listening.”

To those willing to hear.

“Love your enemies.”

The most radical command Jesus ever gave.

Not just tolerate them.

Love them.

“Do good to those who hate you.”

Love is not only a feeling.

It is action.

Cross References

Matthew 5:44

> Here is what I say to you: show love to those who are against you, and pray for anyone who treats you cruelly.

Romans 12:20

> When your enemy has nothing to eat, give him food. When he is thirsty, bring him water.

Exodus 23:4

> If you come across your enemy's ox or donkey wandering away, you must take it back to him.

Spiritual Principle

Followers of Jesus love even their enemies.

Key Truth

Love is shown by what we do, even for those who hate us.

XXVIII. BLESS AND PRAY

Luke 6:28 — For Those Who Mistreat You

“bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

“Bless those who curse you.”

Answer curses with blessings.

“Pray for those who mistreat you.”

Jesus did this on the cross.

“Father, forgive them.”

It is hard to keep hating someone you are praying for.

Cross References

Matthew 5:44

> Love the people who oppose you, and pray for those who make your life hard.

Romans 12:14

> Speak blessing over people who mistreat you. Wish them good, never harm.

1 Peter 3:9

> Do not pay back wrong for wrong or insult for insult. Instead, bless them, because you were called to receive a blessing.

Spiritual Principle

Prayer for enemies changes our hearts.

Application

Who has mistreated you that you can pray for today?

XXIX. TURN THE OTHER CHEEK

Luke 6:29 — Do Not Withhold

“If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt.”

“If someone strikes you on one cheek.”

In that culture, a slap on the cheek was an insult.

“Turn to them the other also.”

Do not take revenge.

Do not return insult for insult.

“If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt.”

Do not cling to your rights.

Jesus is teaching His followers not to seek personal revenge.

He is not telling anyone to stay in danger or abuse.

Seeking safety, protecting others, and pursuing justice through proper means are not forbidden.

Cross References

Matthew 5:39

> I tell you, do not fight back against an evil person. If someone slaps you on the right cheek, let him slap the other cheek too.

Matthew 5:40

> If someone wants to sue you and take your shirt, let him have your coat too.

Lamentations 3:30

> Let him offer his cheek to the one who strikes him, and let him be filled with insults.

Spiritual Principle

Followers of Jesus refuse personal revenge.

Key Truth

Jesus breaks the cycle of retaliation.

XXX. GIVE TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS

Luke 6:30 — Do Not Demand It Back

“Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.”

“Give to everyone who asks you.”

A generous spirit.

Jesus describes a heart that is open-handed.

Other Scriptures also call us to give wisely and to help in ways that truly help.

“Do not demand it back.”

Do not be ruled by possessions.

Hold things loosely.

Cross References

Matthew 5:42

> When someone asks you for something, give it. When someone wants to borrow, do not refuse.

Deuteronomy 15:8

> Be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs.

1 Corinthians 6:7

> Wouldn't it be better to let yourselves be treated unfairly, or even to lose something?

Spiritual Principle

Generosity reflects God's heart.

Key Truth

Hold possessions loosely and people tightly.

XXXI. THE GOLDEN RULE

Luke 6:31 — Do to Others

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

This is often called the Golden Rule.

Many people have taught, “Do not do to others what you would not want done to you.”

Jesus said it positively.

Not just avoid harm.

Actively do good.

Cross References

Matthew 7:12

> In everything, treat others the way you want them to treat you. This is the meaning of the Law and the Prophets.

Leviticus 19:18

> Do not try to get even, and do not keep resentment against your people. Love the people around you as much as you love yourself. I am the Lord.

Romans 13:10

> Love does nothing wrong to anyone. That is why love does everything the law asks.

Spiritual Principle

Treat others the way you want to be treated.

Application

How would you want to be treated today? Treat someone else that way.

XXXII. WHAT CREDIT IS THAT?

Luke 6:32 — Loving Those Who Love You

“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them.”

“If you love those who love you.”

That is easy.

“Even sinners love those who love them.”

Anyone can do that.

Jesus calls His followers to a higher kind of love.

A love like God's own love for us.

Cross References

Matthew 5:46

> If you love only those who love you, what reward will you get? Even tax collectors do that.

1 Peter 2:20

> What credit is there if you are beaten for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and endure it, this pleases God.

Romans 5:8

> God proved how much He loves us, because Christ died for us when we were still living in sin.

Spiritual Principle

Christian love goes beyond ordinary love.

Key Truth

God loved us when we were His enemies.

XXXIII. DOING GOOD TO THE GOOD

Luke 6:33 — Even Sinners Do That

“And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that.”

Trading favors is normal.

You scratch my back, I scratch yours.

But kingdom kindness does not keep score.

It does good to those who cannot or will not return it.

Cross References

Matthew 5:47

> If you greet only your friends, what more are you doing than others? Even people who do not know God do that.

1 Peter 2:20

> If you suffer for doing good and bear it patiently, God is pleased.

Galatians 6:10

> So whenever an opportunity comes, let us do what is good for all people, and most of all for our brothers and sisters in the faith.

Spiritual Principle

Kingdom kindness does not keep score.

Key Truth

Do good without expecting anything back.

XXXIV. LENDING TO SINNERS

Luke 6:34 — Expecting Repayment

“And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full.”

Lending to get something back is just business.

Jesus calls for generosity that expects nothing in return.

God is the One who repays.

Cross References

Psalm 37:21

> The wicked borrow and do not pay back, but those who do right give freely.

Psalm 37:26

> Good people are always generous and lend freely, and their children are a blessing.

Deuteronomy 15:10

> Give freely, and do not give with a grudging heart. Then the Lord your God will bless you in all your work.

Spiritual Principle

Generosity gives without calculating a return.

Key Truth

God rewards those who give freely.

XXXV. CHILDREN OF THE MOST HIGH

Luke 6:35 — Kind to the Ungrateful

“But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because He is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.”

“Love your enemies, do good to them.”

Jesus repeats the command.

“Your reward will be great.”

God sees.

“You will be children of the Most High.”

Children look like their Father.

“Because He is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.”

God gives sunshine and rain to all.

He showed kindness to us when we did not deserve it.

Cross References

Matthew 5:45

> Then you will be children of your Father in heaven. He makes His sun rise on evil and good people, and He sends rain to those who do right and those who do wrong.

Matthew 5:9

> Happy are the people who bring peace, because God will call them His own children.

Psalm 145:9

> The Lord is kind to all, and His tender care covers everything He made.

Spiritual Principle

God's children reflect their Father's kindness.

Key Truth

We love our enemies because God first loved us.

XXXVI. BE MERCIFUL

Luke 6:36 — As Your Father Is Merciful

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.””

“Be merciful.”

This sums up everything Jesus has just said.

“Just as your Father is merciful.”

The standard is God Himself.

We have received mercy.

Now we give mercy.

Cross References

Matthew 5:48

You must be complete in your love, the same way your Father in heaven is complete.

Leviticus 19:2

You must be set apart for Me, because I, the Lord your God, am set apart and pure.

Psalm 103:8

The Lord is kind and merciful. He does not become angry quickly, and He is full of love.

Spiritual Principle

Mercy received becomes mercy given.

Key Truth

We are to be merciful because our Father is merciful.

XXXVII. DO NOT JUDGE

Luke 6:37 — Forgive, and You Will Be Forgiven

““Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”

“Do not judge.”

Jesus is not forbidding wise discernment.

Elsewhere He tells us to recognize false prophets by their fruit.

He is forbidding a harsh, fault-finding, condemning spirit.

“Do not condemn.”

Do not write people off.

“Forgive, and you will be forgiven.”

A forgiving heart shows we have received God's forgiveness.

Cross References

Matthew 7:1

> Stop condemning other people, so that you will not be condemned yourself.

Matthew 7:2

> You will be judged in the same way you judge others.

Matthew 6:14

> When you let go of the wrongs others have done to you, your Father in heaven will let go of yours.

Spiritual Principle

A merciful heart replaces a condemning spirit.

Key Truth

Discernment is wise; condemnation is not ours to give.

XXXVIII. GIVE, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN

Luke 6:38 — A Good Measure

“Give, and it will be given to you—a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.””

“Give, and it will be given to you.”

God is generous to the generous.

“A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.”

A picture from the grain market.

An honest seller pressed down the grain and shook it to fill every space, until it spilled over.

“Poured into your lap.”

The fold of a robe used like a pocket.

“With the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

This applies to mercy, forgiveness, judgment, and giving.

Cross References

Matthew 7:2

> The same standard you use for others will be used for you.

Proverbs 11:25

> The one who gives freely will have plenty, and the one who brings refreshment to others will be refreshed too.

Mark 4:24

> The way you measure will be used to measure you, and even more will be added.

Spiritual Principle

God is generous to those who are generous.

Key Truth

You cannot outgive God.

XXXIX. CAN THE BLIND LEAD THE BLIND?

Luke 6:39 — Both Will Fall

“He also told them this parable: “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit?”

“Can the blind lead the blind?”

A teacher who cannot see spiritually cannot guide others.

“Will they not both fall into a pit?”

The leader and the follower both fall.

Be careful whom you follow.

And be careful how you lead.

Cross References

Matthew 15:14

> Leave them alone. They are blind guides. If a blind person leads another blind person, both will fall into a ditch.

Matthew 23:16

> How terrible for you, blind guides!

Isaiah 9:16

> Those who guide this people mislead them, and those who are guided are led astray.

Spiritual Principle

Spiritual leaders must see clearly before guiding others.

Spiritual Warning

Following blind guides leads to ruin.

XL. LIKE THEIR TEACHER

Luke 6:40 — Fully Trained

“The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.”

“The student is not above the teacher.”

Students learn from teachers.

“Everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.”

We become like the one we follow.

If we follow blind guides, we become blind.

If we follow Jesus, we become like Him.

Cross References

Matthew 10:24

> A student is not better than his teacher, and a servant is not better than his master.

John 13:16

> I tell you the truth, a servant is not greater than his master, and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him.

John 15:20

> Remember what I told you: a servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you too.

Spiritual Principle

We become like the one we follow.

Application

Who are you becoming like?

XLI. THE SPECK AND THE PLANK

Luke 6:41 — In Your Own Eye

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?”

“The speck of sawdust in your brother's eye.”

A small fault.

“The plank in your own eye.”

A huge fault.

Jesus used humor to make a serious point.

We easily see small faults in others and miss big faults in ourselves.

Cross References

Matthew 7:3

> Why do you notice the little piece of dust in your brother's eye, but you don't notice the big piece of wood in your own eye?

Matthew 7:4

> How can you say to your brother, “Let me take that speck out of your eye,” when there is a log in your own?

Romans 2:1

> So you have no excuse when you judge others. When you judge them, you condemn yourself, because you do the same things.

Spiritual Principle

Examine yourself before correcting others.

Key Truth

The biggest faults are often the ones we cannot see in ourselves.

XLII. FIRST TAKE THE PLANK OUT

Luke 6:42 — Then You Will See Clearly

“How can you say, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.””

“You hypocrite!”

An actor, pretending.

“First take the plank out of your own eye.”

Deal with your own sin first.

“And then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”

Notice: Jesus does not say never help your brother.

He says help him after you have dealt honestly with yourself.

Then you can help with humility and gentleness.

Cross References

Matthew 7:4

> How can you tell your brother to let you remove his speck, when you have a log in your own eye?

Matthew 7:5

> You pretender! Pull the log out of your own eye before anything else. After that you will be able to see well enough to help your brother with the speck in his.

Romans 2:21

> You teach others, so why don't you teach yourself?

Spiritual Principle

Self-examination prepares us to help others humbly.

Key Truth

Clear sight comes from honest repentance.

XLIII. A GOOD TREE

Luke 6:43 — Good and Bad Fruit

“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.”

The fruit shows the nature of the tree.

What we do reveals who we are.

Change must begin at the root, in the heart.

Cross References

Matthew 7:17

> A healthy tree always grows good fruit, and a diseased tree grows bad fruit.

Matthew 7:18

> A good tree cannot grow bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot grow good fruit.

Matthew 12:33

> If the tree is good, its fruit will be good. If the tree is rotten, its fruit will be rotten. You can tell what a tree is like by the fruit it grows.

Spiritual Principle

A changed heart produces a changed life.

Key Truth

The fruit reveals the root.

XLIV. RECOGNIZED BY ITS FRUIT

Luke 6:44 — Figs and Thornbushes

“Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars.”

“Each tree is recognized by its own fruit.”

You can tell what kind of tree it is by what grows on it.

“People do not pick figs from thornbushes.”

A thornbush cannot produce figs.

A heart without God cannot produce the fruit of God's Spirit.

Cross References

Matthew 7:16

> You will know them by their fruit. Grapes do not come from thornbushes, and figs do not come from thistles.

Matthew 7:20

> So you will know these false prophets by what they produce.

James 3:12

> Friends, a fig tree cannot grow olives, and a grapevine cannot grow figs. In the same way, a salty spring cannot pour out fresh water.

Spiritual Principle

Lives are known by their fruit.

Application

What fruit is your life producing?

XLV. THE MOUTH SPEAKS WHAT THE HEART IS FULL OF

Luke 6:45 — Good and Evil Stored Up

“A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.””

“The good stored up in his heart.”

The heart is like a storehouse.

What we put in is what comes out.

“For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.”

Our words reveal our hearts.

If we want to change our words, we must let God change our hearts.

Cross References

Matthew 12:34

> Your mouth speaks the things that fill your heart.

Matthew 12:35

> Good people bring out good things from the goodness they have stored inside. Evil people bring out evil from the evil they have stored inside.

Matthew 15:18

> What comes out of a person's mouth comes from the heart, and that is what makes a person unclean.

Spiritual Principle

Our words reveal what fills our hearts.

Key Truth

Fill your heart with good, and good will come out.

XLVI. LORD, LORD

Luke 6:46 — Do Not Do What I Say

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord.’”

Calling Jesus Lord is right.

“And do not do what I say?”

But calling Him Lord without obeying Him is empty.

A lord is someone you obey.

Words must be matched by obedience.

Cross References

Matthew 7:21

> Not everyone who calls Me “Lord, Lord” will enter the kingdom of heaven. Only those who do what My Father in heaven wants will enter.

Malachi 1:6

> A son honors his father, and a servant honors his master. If I am a Father, where is My honor? If I am a Master, where is My respect?

James 1:22

> Do what God's teaching says; do not only listen and fool yourselves.

Spiritual Principle

True discipleship is measured by obedience, not words.

Spiritual Warning

Calling Jesus Lord means nothing if we do not obey Him.

XLVII. HEARS AND PUTS INTO PRACTICE

Luke 6:47 — I Will Show You

"As for everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like."

Three steps:

"Comes to Me."

A relationship.

"Hears My words."

Listening.

"And puts them into practice."

Obedience.

All three are needed.

Coming and hearing are not enough without doing.

Cross References

Matthew 7:24

> Everyone who hears My words and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock.

James 1:22

> Don't trick yourselves by just hearing God's message. Carry it out.

John 13:17

> You understand these things now. God will bless you when you live them out.

Spiritual Principle

Blessing comes from doing what Jesus says.

Key Truth

Come, hear, and obey.

XLVIII. FOUNDATION ON ROCK

Luke 6:48 — The House Stood

“They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.”

“Who dug down deep.”

Hard work.

Effort that no one sees.

“And laid the foundation on rock.”

Obedience to Jesus is the rock.

“When a flood came.”

Not if, but when.

Storms come to every life.

“But could not shake it, because it was well built.”

A life built on obeying Jesus will stand.

Cross References

Matthew 7:24

> Anyone who hears and does what I say is like a wise man who built his house on solid rock.

Matthew 7:25

> The rain came down, the floods rose, and the winds beat against that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on rock.

1 Corinthians 3:11

> The foundation is already in place, and it is Jesus Christ. Nobody can put down a different one.

Spiritual Principle

A life built on obedience to Jesus will stand in the storm.

Key Truth

The storm reveals the foundation.

XLIX. WITHOUT A FOUNDATION

Luke 6:49 — Its Destruction Was Complete

“But the one who hears My words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed, and its destruction was complete.””

“The one who hears My words and does not put them into practice.”

He heard the same words.

But he did not obey.

“Built a house on the ground without a foundation.”

It looked fine in good weather.

“The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed.”

Storms test every life.

“And its destruction was complete.”

A sobering ending.

Jesus ends His sermon with a call to decide.

Cross References

Matthew 7:26

> Everyone who hears My words but does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

Matthew 7:27

> The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

James 1:23

> A person who hears the message and does nothing about it is like someone who looks at himself in a mirror

Spiritual Principle

Hearing without obeying leads to collapse.

Spiritual Warning

A life without the foundation of obedience will not survive the storm.

L. FIVE GREAT LESSONS FROM LUKE 6

1. Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath

“The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

Principle:

Jesus rules over all things, and mercy outweighs ritual.

2. Love, Generosity, and Mercy Reflect God

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

Principle:

Following Christ means loving enemies and showing mercy that reflects God's own character.

3. Discipleship Is Measured by Obedience and Fruit

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

Principle:

True discipleship is shown not by words but by obedience and fruit.

4. Examine Yourself Before Correcting Others

“First take the plank out of your own eye.”

Principle:

Spiritual blindness is dangerous, so we must look honestly at ourselves first.

5. Build on the Sure Foundation

“He… laid the foundation on rock.”

Principle:

A strong life is built on obedience to Jesus.

LI. THE UPSIDE-DOWN KINGDOM

Jesus turned the world's values upside down.

The World Says: Blessed Are the Rich

Jesus says: **“Blessed are you who are poor.”**

The World Says: Get Even

Jesus says: **“Love your enemies.”**

The World Says: Look Out for Yourself

Jesus says: **“Give to everyone who asks you.”**

The World Says: Find Fault

Jesus says: **“Do not judge.”**

The World Says: Be Popular

Jesus says: **“Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you.”**

The World Says: Talk Is Enough

Jesus says: **“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”**

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The kingdom of God reverses the values of the world.

LII. THE LOVE JESUS COMMANDS

In verses 27–36, Jesus describes kingdom love.

It Loves Enemies

“Love your enemies.”

It Does Good

“Do good to those who hate you.”

It Blesses and Prays

“Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

It Refuses Revenge

“Turn to them the other also.”

It Gives Freely

“Lend without expecting to get anything back.”

It Looks Like the Father

“You will be children of the Most High.”

Key Truth

Kingdom love is God's love flowing through His children.

LIII. THE TEST OF A TRUE DISCIPLE

Jesus ends His sermon with three tests.

The Test of Sight

Do I see my own faults before judging others?

The Test of Fruit

What does my life produce?

The Test of Obedience

Do I do what Jesus says?

The Test of the Storm

Will my life stand when trouble comes?

Crawford Bible Study Principle

A true disciple sees honestly, bears good fruit, obeys Jesus, and stands firm in the storm.

LIV. WHAT LUKE 6 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

He Is Lord of the Sabbath

“The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

He Is Merciful

“To save life.”

He Knows Hearts

“Jesus knew their thoughts.”

He Prays

“He spent the night praying to God.”

He Chooses His People

“He… chose twelve of them.”

He Has Power to Heal

“Power was coming from Him and healing them all.”

He Is the Teacher of the Kingdom

“Looking at His disciples, He said.”

He Is Lord

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord’?”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus is the merciful Lord who teaches the way of the kingdom and calls us to obey.

LV. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Why did the Pharisees object to the disciples picking grain?

Their traditions treated rubbing grain as work forbidden on the Sabbath.

Question 2

How did Jesus answer them?

He pointed to David eating the sacred bread and declared that the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.

Question 3

What question did Jesus ask before healing the man's hand?

Whether it is lawful on the Sabbath to do good or evil, to save life or destroy it.

Question 4

What did Jesus do before choosing the twelve apostles?

He spent the whole night praying to God.

Question 5

Why is it remarkable that Matthew and Simon the Zealot were both apostles?

One had worked for Rome and the other wanted to overthrow Rome. Jesus united them.

Question 6

Who did Jesus say are blessed?

The poor, the hungry, those who weep, and those rejected for His sake.

Question 7

What warnings did Jesus give?

Woe to the rich, the well fed, those who laugh now, and those everyone speaks well of.

Question 8

What does it mean to love your enemies?

To do good to them, bless them, pray for them, and refuse revenge.

Question 9

Does “Do not judge” mean we should never discern right from wrong?

No. It forbids a harsh, condemning spirit, not wise discernment.

Question 10

What is the point of the speck and the plank?

Examine your own faults before correcting others, and then help them humbly.

Question 11

What is the difference between the two builders?

One heard Jesus' words and obeyed; the other heard and did not obey.

Question 12

What should Luke 6 change about the way Christians live today?

Luke 6 should cause believers to live:

- Showing mercy over empty ritual.
- Praying before important decisions.
- Loving and praying for their enemies.
- Refusing revenge.
- Giving generously without keeping score.
- Examining themselves before judging others.
- Bearing good fruit from a changed heart.
- Building their lives on obedience to Jesus.

LVI. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Luke 6 asks several important questions.

Do I Value Rules More Than People?

Or do I show mercy?

Do I Pray Before Big Decisions?

Like Jesus did?

Who Is My Enemy?

Am I loving and praying for them?

Do I Seek Revenge?

Or do I leave it with God?

Am I Generous?

Or do I keep score?

Is There a Plank in My Eye?

What faults do I refuse to see in myself?

What Fruit Is My Life Producing?

What do my words reveal about my heart?

What Is My Foundation?

Do I just hear Jesus' words, or do I obey them?

LVII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Why Do You Call Me Lord?”

Jesus had just finished teaching.

Love your enemies.

Do not judge.

Give generously.

Bear good fruit.

Then He asked a piercing question:

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

Many people say the right words.

They sing the right songs.

They call Jesus Lord.

But Jesus looks for one thing.

Obedience.

Two houses can look the same in good weather.

Only the storm reveals the foundation.

This creates a powerful principle.

Calling Jesus Lord is easy.

Living as if He is Lord is the real test.

Principle:

Jesus is not truly our Lord until we do what He says.

LVIII. FINAL APPLICATION

Luke Chapter 6 teaches the way of the kingdom.

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath.

He heals a shriveled hand.

He prays all night and chooses twelve apostles.

He blesses the poor and warns the rich.

He commands love for enemies.

He forbids a judging spirit.

He warns about blind guides and planks in our own eyes.

He teaches that a tree is known by its fruit.

And He calls us to build on the rock of obedience.

Luke 6 therefore reminds us:

Never value rules above mercy.

Never answer hatred with hatred.

Never judge others while ignoring your own sin.

Never call Jesus Lord without obeying Him.

Never build your life without a foundation.

The church does not need people who only hear Jesus' words.

It needs:

People who show mercy like their Father.

People who love their enemies.

People who examine their own hearts.

And people who build their lives on obedience to Jesus.

The same Jesus still calls:

Tell people that the kingdom belongs to the poor in spirit.

Tell people that God is kind to the ungrateful.

Tell people that Jesus is Lord.

Tell people that a life built on Him will stand.

And as you live:

Love your enemies.

Be merciful.

Examine yourself.

Obey Jesus.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath and Lord of all.

Thank You that You value mercy above empty ritual.

Thank You that Jesus prayed and chose ordinary people to follow Him.

Thank You that the kingdom belongs to the poor and the hungry.

Thank You that You are kind even to the ungrateful and the wicked.

Thank You that You were merciful to us.

Forgive us when we have valued rules more than people.

Forgive us when we have hated our enemies.

Forgive us when we have judged others and ignored our own sin.

Forgive us when we have called Jesus Lord but not obeyed Him.

Teach us to love our enemies.

Make us generous and merciful like You.

Help us see our own faults clearly.

Fill our hearts with good so that good comes out.

And help us build our lives on the rock of obedience to Jesus.

“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” — Luke 6:46

Central Truth

Jesus is Lord, and the way of His kingdom calls His followers to show mercy, love their enemies, examine their own hearts, and build their lives on obeying His words.

Luke 6 in One Sentence

Jesus declares Himself Lord of the Sabbath and heals on it, prays all night before choosing twelve apostles, and teaches His disciples the way of the kingdom: blessing for the poor, love for enemies, mercy instead of judgment, fruit from a good heart, and a life built on obeying His words.