

THE GOSPEL OF *Luke*



Week 6: Jesus Has Power and Authority (Part 3)

Introduction:

Luke's account of Jesus' public ministry opens with a sermon in the synagogue at Nazareth, introducing four themes that characterize Jesus' ministry as a whole:

1. Jesus' authority as Messiah
2. Jesus' power to perform miracles
3. Jesus' salvation for the unclean, the outcast, and even the gentiles
4. The hostility Jesus encounters from those who resist his priorities

In the events that follow, Jesus heals various people, enters into disputes over his authority, and calls disciples who will help him multiply his ministry.

Note: As you discuss questions in your groups or reflect on them by yourself, keep in mind that the goal is not to get all the answers right. Many of us will not know the answers, and that is okay! The goal is to interact with God's Word and give genuine thought to it. If you struggle to even guess a possible answer, that is okay too! The pastors will provide the answers after your discussion so you can know and record them on your study guide.

Questions:

Read Luke 5:33-39

1. (Breakout) In all of the Old Testament Law, God only commands His people to fast on just one day of the year. See Leviticus 23:26-28,

The Lord said to Moses, “The tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. Hold a sacred assembly and deny yourselves (**fast**), and present a food offering to the Lord. Do not do any work on that day, because it is the Day of Atonement, when atonement is made for you before the Lord your God.

The Pharisees and their disciples made it their practice to fast twice a week. Given what we know about the pharisees so far, why would they do this?

Answer:

2. (Breakout) Though there certainly is curiosity in the questions of the Pharisees, they usually also double as traps to disprove or defame Jesus based on His answers. Because of this, Jesus often answers a question with a question (as teachers back then often would) or a parable (a story that uses simple and relatable imagery to convey a teaching about morality, Jesus' work, and/or the Kingdom of God).

In this parable, Jesus harshly declares that the old and the new are incompatible and that the old must give way for the new. What could Jesus be talking about as He answers the Pharisees?

Answer:

Read Luke 6:1-11

3. Some of the Pharisees again question Jesus about the behavior of His disciples. The Pharisees are accusing the disciples of breaking the law that forbids work on the sabbath. Jesus answers them with the example of David and His men. In a great time of need, they ate the consecrated bread of the temple, which was only for the priests to eat, according to the laws of the Old Testament. What message does this example send to those accusing Jesus and His followers?

Answer:

4. Jesus declares Himself the Lord of the sabbath. Like Jesus' claim to forgive sins (Luke 5:17-26) What does that imply? Why might that be upsetting to the Pharisees? See Leviticus 23:3,

There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the Lord.

Answer:

5. (Breakout) Jesus uses the Pharisees' own tactics to point out their hypocrisy by asking them a question: "Which is lawful on the sabbath, to do good or evil, to save life or destroy it?". Jesus Isn't just asking a vague, open-ended question here. In vv.11-12, what good and evil are being done?

Answer:

Read Luke 6:12-16

6. What is an Apostle? How is an Apostle different from a disciple?

Answer:

Closing Thought:

Jesus has set the stage for the rest of His ministry. He has shown power through miracles, displayed authority by casting out demons, has proclaimed salvation and the coming of His kingdom, and has been undeterred by His opposition. Luke's account of Jesus' early ministry sets the reader up to expect great things from the true, powerful, authoritative, and trustworthy Son of God.