

Simply Jesus

The Life and Ministry of God's Son

Inductive: Lesson 4

Introduction

During the second year of Jesus' ministry, His popularity among the people grew along with His following, and so too the opposition seeking to turn the ever-increasing crowds away from Jesus' direction. Increasing crowds meant multiplied needs, big and small; with those needs came increased opportunities for faith to grow. More work called for more prayer, as Jesus more often responded by withdrawing alone to spend time in close communion with the Father. There were some 204 cities in the surrounding region of Galilee that needed to hear the Gospel message Jesus came to share. Day after day, from sunrise to sunset, people came from all around seeking to hear Jesus and have Him address their needs.

If you had to estimate, how much of your day is spent seeking and serving Jesus? How much is spent wrestling and worrying over the concerns and affairs of your daily life? Jesus promises that if you seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, everything else in your life will be taken care of. In other words, if you guard your relationship with Him, He'll in turn regard and respond to the details that surround and concern you right now! Pay close attention to deity on display this week in your lesson, as Jesus reached out to the masses with the message of eternal life, while along the way revealing the heart of God to everyone who crossed His path.

Did You Know

Luke was the only non-Jewish writer in the New Testament. A close friend and traveling companion of the Apostle Paul, it is Luke we have to thank for writing the Book of Acts, allowing us a firsthand look at the early beginnings of the Christian church. He was an educated man, a physician by occupation, which accounts for a writing style that reflects a clinical and compassionate account. Throughout his gospel, he often makes reference to illness, diagnosis and healings. Luke presents Jesus as the perfect human being with a heart for people, emphasizing the Lord's miracles and the power of prayer. He highlights Jesus' ministry to include women, non-Jews and the outcasts of society no one else cared about. His presentation demonstrates that Christianity was the fulfillment of Judaism, extending God's arm of grace to include all peoples of the world. Luke focuses on the fact that the gospel message was part of God's universal plan for mankind from the beginning.

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

<u>Teaching / Event</u>	<u>Scripture Text</u>	<u>Parallel Passages</u>
Jesus heals a leper	Luke 5:12–16	Matt. 8:1–4; Mark 1:40–45
Jesus heals a paralytic	Luke 5:17–26	Matt. 9:1–8; Mark 2:1–12
Jesus eats with sinners	Luke 5:27–32	Matt. 9:9–13; Mark 2:13–17
Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath	Luke 6:1–11	Matt. 12:1–14; Mark 2:23–28; 3:1–6
Jesus chooses the twelve disciples	Luke 6:12–16	Mark 3:13–19

First Impressions: Group Discussion

Read the above passages selected for this week's lesson.

Reflect for a moment on the passages you have just read.

Respond by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

Heartbeat: Matthew 9:5 (Memory verse)

(Write out the verse in the spaces below. Practice it each time you open your lesson.)

For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'?

Luke 5:12–32; 6:1–16 NKJV

Luke 5:12–16

Jesus Heals a Leper

12 And it happened when He was in a certain city, that behold, a man who was full of leprosy saw Jesus; and he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.”

13 Then He put out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately the leprosy left him. 14 And He charged him to tell no one, “But go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as a testimony to them, just as Moses commanded.”

15 However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities.

16 So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

Luke 5:17–26

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic

17 Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

18 Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him.

19 And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.

20 When He saw their faith, He said to him, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.”

21 And the Scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies?

Who can forgive sins but God alone?” 22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts,

He answered and said to them, “Why are you reasoning in your hearts? 23 Which is easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise up and walk’?

24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”

25 Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. 26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, “We have seen strange things today!”

Luke 5:27–32

Jesus Eats with Sinners

27 After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, “Follow Me.” 28 So he left all, rose up, and followed Him. 29 Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them. 30 And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, “Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” 31 Jesus answered and said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Luke 6:1–11

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath

1 Now it happened on the second Sabbath after the first that he went through the grainfields. And His disciples plucked the heads of grain and ate them, rubbing them in their hands. 2 And some of the Pharisees said to them, “Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?” 3 But Jesus answering them said, “Have you not even read this, what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: 4 how he went into the house of God, took and ate the showbread, and also gave some to those with him, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat?” 5 And He said to them, “The Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.” 6 Now it happened on another Sabbath, also, that He entered the synagogue and taught. And a man was there whose right hand was withered. 7 So the scribes and Pharisees watched Him closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath, that they might find an accusation against Him. 8 But He knew their thoughts, and said to the man who had the withered hand, “Arise and stand here.” And he arose and stood. 9 Then Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one thing: Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?” 10 And when He had looked around at them all, He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he did so, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. 11 But they were filled with rage, and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Luke 6:12–16

Jesus Chooses the Twelve

12 Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. 13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles: 14 Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; 15 Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; 16 Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.

OBSERVATION: Look!

Pray. Read through the Bible passage several times, trying to get a big picture of what is going on.

Left Column (Facts): Following the writer in the order he tells the story, briefly describe who is involved, what is happening, when and where the events are taking place.

Right Column (Observations): Look more closely to observe details. Some questions you may ask:

- What do you know about the people involved in the story? What questions does the story raise? What sources of conflict do you see? What does Jesus identify as true and important to life?
- Put yourself in the Biblical character's shoes. What were his ambitions? How did the character relate to others or to God? What problem did he think he faced? Did Jesus identify a different problem in his life? What did he discover about God? How did he respond?
- Are there any words that you are not familiar with? Look up the definition.
- Are there words or phrases that are repeated or emphasized? Why do they seem to be key?
- Identify comparisons, such as "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." What do you know about leaven (yeast)? Identify contrasts, such as "You have heard it said...but I say to you..."
- Extra: Record information you may find in Bible dictionaries, maps, handbooks, or encyclopedias. Understanding the culture/time in which Jesus lived will help you discover the meaning of the text.

Luke 5:12–16 Jesus Heals a Leper

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Luke 5:17–26 Jesus Heals and Forgives a Paralytic

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Luke 5:27–32 Jesus Eats With Sinners

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Luke 6:1–11 Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Luke 6:12–16 Jesus Chooses the Twelve

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

INTERPRETATION: What Does It Mean?

Pray. The more time you take to observe the passage, the more you will have a basis for understanding what God’s Word means. Interpretation **always** seeks to answer the questions, “What was God saying to the original audience?” and then, “How does that same truth relate to life today?” Asking yourself questions will help you see the spiritual lesson in the text: What does this teach me is true about God? What does it teach me is true about mankind? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to the promise? Is there an example I should follow or avoid? A spiritual

lesson is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to the heart of man. ***Stating the lesson in a sentence of 10 words or less will help you keep it simple and memorable.***

APPLICATION: How Does it Apply to Me?

Pray. Practicing Biblical truth day-to-day is the only way to grow in Christ and reflect the glory of God. To apply the spiritual lesson you have learned from the text, you have to take deliberate action. Take the time to examine yourself, and ask: Does this spiritual lesson point out error in my thoughts about God? Does it point to error in my attitude or actions? How does this lesson relate to my home life, my work, my relationships, how I spend my time, etc? What change is required? What practical steps will I take to make that change? Write your application in the form of a question to help make it personal.

Luke 5:12–16

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Luke 5:17–26

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Luke 5:27–32

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Luke 6:1–11

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Luke 6:12–16

Lesson: _____

Application: _____

Take a Closer Look: Sermon on the Mount: Part 1 ~ The Beatitudes

Read Matthew 5:1–12 and Luke 6:20–26.

Everyone in the region wanted to spend time with Jesus. Imagine the temptation for the twelve disciples, His closest companions, to feel proud and important, above the crowd and “in the know.” Their association with Him brought them attention, popularity and prestige. And as the crowds began to gather once again, Jesus pulled the disciples aside to warn them about the temptations, perils and rewards they would face as His followers. Each beatitude addresses how to be blessed by God. The word “blessed” literally means “happy” or “fortunate.” The same word appears in both the Old Testament and the New Testament to describe the deepest form of joy that can only come from a personal relationship with God.

Like the disciples, there will be times when we too will be tempted to use our association with Jesus to our own advantage. The only way to prevent it from happening is to develop and live by the heart attitudes Jesus puts forth in this sermon on the mountain.

Exercise directions: Fill in the spaces below, listing the beatitude along with the reward and the practical application of how to develop it in your life. The exercise is taken from the Matthew 5 passage; the first example is done for you.

1. The heart attitude – v. 3: *Blessed are the poor in spirit* _____
The reward: *theirs is the kingdom of Heaven* _____
How to develop it: James 4:7–10 (Summarize the verses in your own words.)
Submit to God; draw near to God; lament, mourn and weep. Humble myself in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift me up. _____
2. The heart attitude – v. 4: _____
The reward: _____
How to develop it: Psalm 51 (Summarize the verses in your own words.)

3. The heart attitude – v. 5: _____
The reward: _____
How to develop it: Matthew 11:28–30 (Summarize the verses in your own words.)

4. The heart attitude – v. 6: _____
The reward: _____
How to develop it: Philippians 3:7–11 (Summarize the verses in your own words.)

5. The heart attitude – v. 7: _____
The reward: _____
How to develop it: Ephesians 4:32 (Put the verse in your own words.)

6. The heart attitude – v. 8: _____
The reward: _____
How to develop it: 1 John 3:1–3 (Summarize the verses in your own words.)

7. The heart attitude – v. 9: _____
The reward: _____
How to develop it: Romans 12:9–21 (Summarize the verses in your own words.)

8. The heart attitude – v. 10: _____
The reward: _____
How to develop it: John 15:18–21 (Summarize the verses in your own words.)

Jesus said to “rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven” when you are persecuted. It is evidence that you are faithful to Him and to your calling as a believer.

The Beatitudes can be viewed from several different perspectives: as a code of conduct for all believers; to contrast what is worldly with what is eternal; to describe how the expectations of the Old Testament will be fulfilled in the coming Kingdom. Together they demonstrate that the way to true happiness is opposite of the worldly path people normally think to follow. By pursuing and developing these heart attitudes, you will in turn exhibit the character of true faith.

9. Personal: Which of these behavioral traits is the Lord currently working into your life at this moment?

Behold & Be Transformed

What did you **see** as you beheld God's Son?

How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

Pause . . . What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

Ponder . . . How will you put it into practice?

Pray . . . Write out your prayer and be specific.

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