

## Class 2: Luke 6

### Welcome

Intro: One week into Summer Study - how are you doing?

Are you discovering how, where, when to set aside time to listen to the Lord through the scriptures?

Are you finding certain things (or people) disrupt you each day? Are you learning how to handle those disruptions?

This week we are going to be looking at how God is more than enough for our relationships.

All kinds of relationships

He created us for relationships. He will be with us in the midst of the messy, hard, beautiful, fun, and everyday relationships.

Today we will look at difficult relationships. We all have them. Sometimes they are REALLY close relationships that are hard. Others are with people we work with throughout the week. Or maybe a one time interaction that has stuck with us.

With our passage today, it can be easy to read it quickly and revert to your normal patterns. This passage (or at least parts of it) are most likely familiar to you. I encourage you to put yourself into the crowd that is surrounding Jesus as He speaks.

He is talking about relationships. He knew that some of our deepest healing is needed in our relationships. He also knew that the true state of our hearts is displayed in how we interact with others.

Relationships are unavoidable. Our God, in whose image we are created, is a perfect relationship within Himself. We are therefore, created to be in relationship. But because of our sinful nature - they are ALL messed up, everyone of them! And He longs to bring healing and health to all of them. All the people we interact with, are related to, or married to - those we really don't get along with - enemies, those who mistreat us, those who take and take and take, those we feel superior to and inferior to, and even those we would condemn rather than deal with our own sins. He is more than enough in all of our relationships. The question becomes - do you trust Him?

At the end of the chapter Jesus is teaching about how our lives, our actions and words towards others reveals the true nature of our hearts. We cannot just listen to His words and say 'oh that is lovely' or 'I like that' or 'I want to love and be loved that way' - we are called to put it into practice.

PRACTICE...not perfection, practice. All coming from the firm foundation of His love and acceptance of us.

As we step into the next 45 min to listen and respond to the Lord - do it from the firm foundation of His love for you. If that foundation is not firm - if you are feeling tossed around by the winds around you - spend time with the Lord making that foundation secure. Go into this time listening and responding to the Lord and how He continues to transform your hearts.

Out to listen

Back to discuss

Testimony (Doris)

Conclusion

Did you notice how the passage began: you who are listening...

Are you listening?

Did anyone else stay there for awhile?

Some other translations say: "I say to you who hear Me and pay attention to My words", "To you who are ready for the truth, I say this..."

Wow! That really made me stop and think and prepare myself to really be listening. I heard that almost as, "here's the truth"...that doesn't often begin a sentence that I am going to be very comfortable with - I'm about to hear something I need to "work on".

And isn't that what Jesus does? He takes all the instances when we would like to hold a grudge, find revenge, turn our backs, be superior and says - wait a minute. You are MINE. I want you to interact with others the way that I do.

Can you hear the loving parent bending down and talking with you? "In this family we: love one another, are kind, help out, give, pray for and serve one another". Do you feel a bit like the 14 yr old being told to be kind to a sibling? Do you want to roll your eyes and say buuutttt.....

And yet the love in Jesus' voice as He gives examples: when you are disliked, even hated, spoken poorly about, stolen from, hurt, angry, disrespected, when you are sinned against - "show mercy and compassion,

just as your heavenly Father overflows with mercy and compassion for all” (Passion translation).

Does this mean that when we are hurt we are to just sweep it under the rug and move on? No. We tell Him about the hurts AND we pray for that person. For me that usually begins with - I don't like this person, or they hurt me and I feel ..... I wish.... I want to..... I should've said (I'm brilliant after the fact).....

After I have gotten it all out to my Father in Heaven, He begins to cleanse my heart and turn it toward good for that person. So that I can pray for them. This is not from me at all. I would rather plan and plot how to get back at them. But the Holy Spirit within me changes my heart and motivation towards that person.

This can take a long time, or it can be immediate.

How practiced are you?

How aware are you of when you are offended or hurt?

Do you know when you begin to think, act, or speak about someone based on your hurts and/or disappointments?

This is where the slide begins or stops. This is where hatred plants its roots. We need to practice not allowing them to take root.

It's not easy. One translation says to “make it a practice to do good to those who hate you”. Make it a practice. It's a learning and growing curve.

Just as last week we saw all the ways that God is more than enough for all the earthquakes in our lives, He is also more than enough for the relationships in our lives.

At the end of chapter 6 in Luke, Jesus tells the story of two builders; the wise and the foolish builders. He is talking to us. Are you listening?

Will you be wise and build your life on Christ by listening to His words and obeying them or foolish by hearing and not obeying?

Only with the firm foundation of Christ's love and acceptance can we “turn the other cheek” and love our enemies. Then can we begin to become merciful as our Heavenly Father is merciful. This is the work that the Holy Spirit brings forth out of a transformed heart.

He is more than enough to be the firm foundation that we stand upon when we feel battered on every side. He is more than enough to transform our hearts and our relationships. He is more than enough.

Pray  
Week reminders