

The Gospel of Luke

Lesson 12

In our previous study, we saw Jesus exercising kingdom authority by healing and forgiving sins. The Pharisees declare that only God can forgive sins. In response, Jesus asks them: “Which is easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say ‘Get up and walk?’” To show them that He has the authority to forgive sins, he tells the paralyzed man to pick up his mat and go home. The man stands up, picks up his mat and goes home praising God.

As you prepare for this lesson, please take a moment to praise God for who He is and the wonderful things He does. Also ask Him for insight into His Word and for help answering the questions.

Blessings and Woes

1. Read Luke 6:17-26 and Matthew 5:1-12.
 - A. How are these passages similar?

- B. How are they different?

C. What in your opinion might account for these similarities and differences?

2. Read Luke 6:17, 18.

A. Describe the setting. Who was there?

B. Why had they traveled to see Jesus?

C. Where had they come from? (See also Matthew 4:23-25.)

(1) Using a map in the back of your Bible or from some other source, identify the various places mentioned in these passages. What do you notice about these locations?

(2) From Matthew 11:20-22, what else do we know about Tyre and Sidon?

(3) What point is Jesus making?

3. Read Luke 6:18b, 19. What were the results of their coming to Jesus? Why?

4. Read Luke 6:20 and Matthew 5:3.

A. What do you think it means to be “poor” or “poor in spirit”?

B. In response, Jesus promises a blessing. Describe what the blessing is and when it is to be received. Is it tangible or intangible, seen or unseen, or all of these?

5. Read Luke 6:21 and Matthew 5:6.

A. Describe what it means to “hunger now” or “hunger and thirst for righteousness.”

B. What does Jesus promise in return?

C. How might this promise be fulfilled in our lives?

D. Luke records Jesus saying, "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh." What do you think He means?

6. Read Luke 6:22-23, Matthew 5:11-12, John 15:18-21 and 2 Timothy 3:12.

A. Describe the types of suffering recorded in these passages.

B. Who are those that suffer in this manner?

C. For what reason do they suffer?

- D. Why does Jesus say that those who suffer like this are “blessed” and that they are to “rejoice in that day and leap for joy” (Luke passage) or “rejoice and be glad” (Matthew passage)?

- E. Read Acts 5:12-41. How does this passage illustrate the principles outlined in Luke 6:22-23 and Matthew 5:11-12?

7. Read Luke 6:24-26.

- A. “Woe” may be better understood as “alas” or “how terrible,” that is, an expression of regret and compassion instead of a threat. Contrast the woes spoken here by Jesus with the blessings proclaimed in verses 20-23.

B. Read 1 John 2:15-17, Matthew 16:24-26 and Revelation 19:1-8. In what ways do these verses reinforce the principles of blessing and woe above?

C. How might you apply what you have learned from this lesson to your life? What things are our hearts to focus on?