

The Good News About Jesus as Luke Wrote It

Chapter 6

HoneyBee base version for oral translation

September 2023 Draft¹

Background

- The Law given by Moses allowed people walking on a path to freely pick grain from a field that they did not own which was near to that path (Deut. 23:25).
- A man who could not use his 'clean' right hand always felt ashamed to use only his 'dirty'/'unclean' left hand.
- Scribes were educated Jewish men who made hand-written copies of the Hebrew Scriptures, and they taught people from those Scriptures.
- The Scribes and the Pharisees used to listen to every new teacher to decide if he was teaching truth and obeying Jewish laws, and not revolting against the government.

History

- Jesus had gained a reputation as an effective teacher who had power from God to heal the sick and to expel evil spirits.
- Some folk began to follow Jesus everywhere, because they enjoyed listening to his messages and they wanted his miracles, but they were not obeying his teaching.
- Because there were anti-government rebels teaching people in towns and villages, religious leaders would go hear them, then report to government officials.
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Themes

- It is more important to do good to others than to obey religious rules.
- People show their faith in Jesus by obeying his teaching.
- The good or bad behavior that people do is initiated first from their thoughts.

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Jesus shows that he has more authority than laws²

¹ One Sabbath Day, while Jesus and his disciples were walking through a grain field, they picked some ripe grains. They rubbed these in their hands to separate the grains from their husks, and ate the grains. ² Some Pharisees *who were watching* said to Jesus, “You must not *work with your hands* on the Sabbath day, because our laws forbid it!”

³ *Jesus wanted to show them that, in the Scriptures, God permitted people to disobey some religious laws when they needed food.* So he replied to the Pharisees, “You have read the Scriptures that tell/recount what our King David did, long ago, when he and the men/soldiers who were with him were hungry.

⁴ David entered into God’s house — the holy meeting tent — *and asked the high priest for some food. The high priest gave to him bread that the priests had presented to God.* God’s law permitted only priests to eat that bread. Although David was not a priest, he ate some bread, and he gave some bread to the men who were with him.” ⁵ Jesus also said to them, “Because I am the Divine Human Son who has come from heaven, I have authority to say/determine what is right for my disciples to do on the Sabbath Day!”

⁶ Another Sabbath Day, Jesus entered into a synagogue where he taught the people who had *gathered*. There was a man in that place whose right arm was paralyzed.³ ⁷ The Scribes and the Pharisees who were there were watching Jesus, to see if he would heal the man on the Sabbath Day. They did this so that, if he healed the man, they could accuse him *by saying that he disobeyed their laws by working on the resting day.*

⁸ But Jesus knew what they were thinking. So, he said to the man with the paralyzed arm, “Come stand here before everyone!” So the man got up and stood there. ⁹ Then Jesus said to everybody there, “I ask you(pl) this:⁴ Do the laws *that God gave to Moses* allow us(inc) to do what is good on the Sabbath Day? Or do they allow us(inc) to refuse to do good to others? Do God’s laws allow us(inc) to save a person’s life on the Sabbath Day? Or do they allow us(inc) to let someone die *by refusing to help him?*”

¹⁰ They did not answer him.⁵ So, after he looked around at them all,⁶ he said to the man, “Stretch out your right arm!” When the man did so, his hand became strong/healed! ¹¹ But this caused the Scribes and the Pharisees to become angry. Later they discussed with one another what they could do to stop Jesus.

² OR Jesus is master over laws that God gave the Jews through Moses.

³ Or withered and useless. OR deformed and shriveled. Use the same description about the man’s arm in verse **8** as you use here.

⁴ The questions that Jesus asks are real questions, not rhetorical. Jesus wanted the people to engage their minds and think about what the Scriptures say. Nobody answered his questions, but he wanted them to.

⁵ OR refused to answer.

⁶ OR one by one, he looked intently in each person’s eyes.

Jesus chooses twelve disciples to be his apostles⁷

¹² Once, during those days, Jesus went up into the hills to pray. He prayed to God all night. ¹³ Next day, he summoned all his disciples to come near him. From amongst them, he chose twelve men, whom he called apostles. ¹⁴ They were:

Simon (whom he named Peter);

Andrew (Peter's younger brother);

James;

John (James' younger brother);

Philip;

Bartholomew;

¹⁵ Matthew (whose other name was Levi);

Thomas;

James (whose father was Alpheus);⁸

Simon (who wanted to rebel against the Roman government);⁹ and

¹⁶ Judas (whose father's name was James);

and Judas Iscariot¹⁰ (who would later betray Jesus *to his enemies for money*).

Jesus teaches about which people please God¹¹

¹⁷ Jesus came down from the hills and stood with his *twelve* disciples on a level place. Many other disciples following Jesus were there – a very big crowd. Also, there was another big crowd there -- people who had come from Jerusalem, from many other places in Judea district, and from the coastal areas near Tyre and Sidon cities. ¹⁸ Those people came to hear Jesus teach, and for him to heal them from their diseases. He also healed those whom evil spirits were troubling. ¹⁹ Everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, because (God's) power was flowing out from him, healing everyone.¹²

²⁰ He looked at his disciples and said to them, "God is pleased with you now, even though you have little money;¹³ and he will allow you to live in his kingdom. ²¹ God is pleased with you now, even though you do not have enough food; and he will give to you what you need, until you are satisfied. God is pleased with you now, even though you are sad, and he will cause you to be joyful. ²² God is pleased with you now, even though other people hate you. Some people exclude you from their group. Others insult you or slander you, because you believe in me who is the Divine Human Son who came from heaven. ²³ When God allows you to live in his kingdom, rejoice! Leap and jump because you are so happy! God will give to you the great reward that he is keeping for you in heaven!

²⁴ *Then Jesus said to the others who were there, "When God brings/sets up his kingdom on earth, you who are rich now will have nothing, because the good things you have now are all that you will ever have. ²⁵ You who have enough to eat now will later be/go hungry. You who laugh now will later*

⁷ OR Jesus chooses **12** men as apostles.

⁸ OR son from/of Alpheus. OR Alpheus' son.

⁹ OR the patriot. OR a passionate nationalist.

¹⁰ OR Judas from Kerioth town.

¹¹ OR Jesus preaches on a flat plain about who can please God.

¹² OR he was healing everyone by his/God's power.

¹³ Many people (wrongly) thought that God was only pleased with people who were rich – that their riches were a sign that God was blessing them.

be very sad and will weep. ²⁶ Even though most people speak well about you now, they are *evil* like their ancestors who use to speak well about false prophets.”¹⁴

Jesus teaches how people should behave towards others¹⁵

²⁷ Jesus continued, “Now I say this to my disciples who are listening to what I say: Love your enemies as well as your friends. Do good things even for those who hate you! ²⁸ Ask God to bless those who curse you! And pray for those who mistreat/abuse you! ²⁹ If someone strikes you on one cheek,¹⁶ then turn your face so that he can strike the other cheek also.¹⁷ If a bandit/robber takes your(sg) coat from you, then let him also take your shirt.¹⁸ ³⁰ Give something to everyone who asks you(sg) for something. If someone takes away things that belong to you(sg), then do not ask him to return them.

³¹ In whatever way you(pl) want others to treat you(pl), that is the way in which you should treat them. ³² If you(pl) love only those who love you(pl), then no one will praise/reward you, because even sinners love those who love them. ³³ If you(pl) do good things only for those who do good things for you(pl), then no one will praise/reward you, because even sinners do that. ³⁴ If you(pl) lend things or money only to those who will give something back to you, then no one will praise you. Because even sinners lend to other sinners, expecting them to pay everything back.

³⁵ So, love your enemies! Do good things for them! Lend to them, without expecting them to pay anything back! If you(pl) do so, then God will give you(pl) a big reward, because you will be behaving as his children. God is kind to people who are not thankful, and to people who are wicked, *so you(pl) should be kind to them, too.* ⁶ So, behave mercifully/kindly towards others, just as your Father in heaven behaves mercifully/kindly toward you.”

³⁷ When you(pl) stop accusing others for their bad actions, he will stop accusing you(pl) for your bad actions. When you stop condemning others, he will stop condemning you. So, forgive others for bad things that they have done to you(pl), and God¹⁹ will forgive you(pl), too. ³⁸ When you give good things to others, God gives good things to you. The more you give to others, the more he gives to you, until you have more than what you need. Remember that the way in which you behave towards others is the way in which God will behave towards you!”

³⁹ Jesus also told to his disciples these parables: If a blind man leads another blind man, then they will both eventually fall into a trash pit or into a water pool *and be hurt.* ⁴⁰ *Likewise*, people do not respect a learner more than they respect his teacher. But after a teacher has trained his learners, people will respect them as much as they respect the teacher.

⁴¹ *Also consider this:* Why do you look at the small speck that is in your friend’s eye, but you do not notice the log²⁰ that is in your own eye? *How foolish! It is the same as when you talk about other people’s little faults/mistakes,²¹ while you foolishly forget about your own big faults/mistakes.* ⁴² So you

¹⁴ The woes are described, not as ‘terrible punishment’, but as loss of present privileges.

¹⁵ OR Jesus teaches how to do to others.

¹⁶ OR hits/slaps you on your face.

¹⁷ OR slap/hit you on your other face side also.

¹⁸ Coat ... shirt’: use any two garments that your men usually wear.

¹⁹ OR God. OR your Father in heaven.

²⁰ OR the lumber. OR the tree.

²¹ OR sins.

must not say to someone else, 'Friend, let me correct your little fault/mistake,' all the while you are making a big mistake. When you do so, you are like someone who tries to help his brother get a speck out from his eye while all the time he has a log in his own eye. Don't be a hypocrite/pretender! First, take the log out from your own eye (*first stop sinning yourself*), then you will be able to see clearly to help take out the small speck in your friend's eye. (*Then you will be able to help others to stop sinning.*)

⁴³ "People are like trees. Healthy trees do not bear bad fruit, and unhealthy trees do not bear good fruit. ⁴⁴ Just like you can tell if a tree is good or bad by looking at its fruit, you can tell which people are good and which are bad by looking at how they behave. For example, because thorn bushes cannot produce figs, no one can pick figs from thorn bushes. And since prickly bushes²² cannot produce grapes, no one can pick grapes from prickly bushes.

⁴⁵ Similarly, good people behave in good ways, because they think good thoughts about others. And evil people behave in evil ways, because they think evil thoughts. The basic principle is that people speak and behave according to all that they think."

⁴⁶ "You must not say that I, Jesus, am your master or teacher, unless you obey what I tell you!
⁴⁷ Some people who come to me hear my messages and obey them. I will tell you what they are like.
⁴⁸ They are like a man who began to build a house. He dug deep into the ground so that the foundation lay on solid rock. Later, when a water flood came, the flood did not damage his house, because he had built it on a solid rock foundation.

⁴⁹ Some other people hear my messages but do not obey them. They are like a man who built a house on soft ground without first digging a foundation. Later, when a water flood came, his house soon collapsed. It was completely destroyed; there was nothing remaining!
So it is important for you to obey what I teach you."

²² OR thorny bushes. OR briar vines.