

THE RIGHT PURSUIT | LUKE 6:1-19 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 7/27/2025

**I. Seeking Clarity (1-11) | II. Seeking Disciples (12-16) | III. Seeking Jesus (17-19)*

INTRO: Many well intentioned God-seekers have pursued God religiously, **only to find failure!** Why? Because it's their own way to God. – (Prov 14:12) tells us, “*There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.*” – As we dive into chapter six, Jesus shows us **The RIGHT PURSUIT...** *

I. SEEKING CLARITY (1-11) – *What is The Sabbath?* The term comes from the word “**Rest**,” (Gen 2:2-3a), *And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it...*

- This resting period was then implemented into law and **given to Israel at Mount Sinai (Ex 20:8; Neh 9:13-14)**. As a result, the sanctity of the Sabbath was important to the Jewish nation.
- So important was this law that **Rabbi's** went on to teach that *‘Messiah would not come until Israel had perfectly kept the Sabbath.’* (So, you better not break it! – ha)

This is important to understand in our story because of the NEW WORK that Christ is introducing.

- Wiersbe relates an important contrast to this matter: “*The Sabbath speaks of rest AFTER work and relates to the Law, while the Lord's day speaks of rest BEFORE work and relates to Grace.*”
- The **GRACE** that we receive in God's new kingdom is what saves us, (Eph 2:8), “*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God...*”

In this first section, circumstances arise which allow Jesus to address the reality of lawful adherence. – In (vv.1-11), we'll learn that Jesus redefines the Sabbath for His interrogators...

A. Sabbath Laws (1-5) – **READ: The Right Meaning** “*Why are you doing what is not lawful...*”

- 1. The Issue (1): Working on the Sabbath** – Notice first Luke's mention of the 2nd Sabbath. The first mention was recorded in (4:16), and the third follows in (6:6) – *When a human gets hungry, they eat!*... Precisely what the disciples did as they picked the heads of wheat (gleaning) and rubbed them in their hands to remove any chaff, for immediate consumption. – (Deut 23:24-25), mandates a miscellaneous law which permitted this action!
- 2. The Question (2): Breaking the Sabbath law** – The Pharisees saw their action as *Harvesting and Preparing food*, a violation of Sabbath law. Thus, the question, “*Why are you doing what is not lawful*” (They did not understand grace and the liberty that comes from it!)
- 3. The Example (3-4): David's Unlawful Action (cf. 1 Sam 21:1-6)** – Jesus' response challenged both their **Doctrine** and **Authority!** – He agreed that what David did was unlawful. But, He gets to the heart of the issue, teaching us that human need must always have priority over religious traditions and regulations because LOVE is the key! (tt. Matt 12:5-7)
 - **Jesus knew that David needed strength to serve God.** Thus, the **Greatest Good** was to eat and be strengthened rather than to adhere to a temporary law.
 - Jesus later condemns their **LACK OF CLARITY** in (Matt 23:23), “*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites for you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: Justice and Mercy and Faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the other undone.*” (Acts of Justice, Mercy, and Faith override religious adherence to Law in Jesus' kingdom, because LOVE is the key)

4. The Conclusion (5): *Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath* – (tt. Matt 12:5-8) Because the Pharisees knew that **David was anointed King**, they did not condemn David for his actions. – But what these Pharisees truly failed to see was that **Jesus was the Christ, God's anointed** (4:18).

- When Jesus referred to himself as **Lord of the Sabbath**, He was claiming to be **Jehovah God**, because it was the **Lord God, Almighty Who established the Sabbath!** – He therefore knew what was allowed/lawful because He was the author of it!

B. Sabbath Healing (6-11) – READ: The Right Actions - *“Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?””*

1. **Jesus Teaching (6) – The Right Focus** – The Pharisees were aware of Jesus' regular practice of teaching in the synagogue on Sabbath. – But it just so happened that an *Impaired man was present* (*Was it a set up?*) – Notice that Jesus did not ignore the impaired man, but **He was drawn towards him**.

2. **Leaders Scheming (7) – They anticipated that Jesus would be Jesus**, who would heal the man's withered hand. This revealed just how hard their hearts were because they only wanted to **accuse Him!**

3. **Jesus Discerning (8) – “He Knew their thoughts”** so, **He prepared to openly call out who is really in violation of Sabbath Practice**, by positioning the man for what He was about to do... *“Arise/Stand”*

4. **Jesus Confronting (9) – To distinguish what is Truly Lawful**, Jesus poses a question of **Right and Wrong... is it better “to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy?”**

- As **Lord of the Sabbath**, Jesus' question communicated *that it was especially fitting to preserve life and perform good deeds on the Sabbath*. – However, to turn down the greatest good was considered evil. (Jam 4:17) *Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin!*
- This also suggests that Jesus is saying, *“Which is **better to Heal** or to plot and **to Kill** Jesus?”*
- Jesus did not wait for a **Pharisaical response!** But immediately turned to, and commanded the Man, *“Stretch out your hand.”*

5. **Jesus Restoring (10) – Wow, this man's hand was withered**, but *The moment he decided to obey Jesus's command, he was able to stretch it out!* – This demonstrates that there is power when we believe Jesus' Word (cf. Luke 1:37) – **His hand was completely restored!** (*For all to see! – What a witness*)

P/A – Herein lies a lesson for those of us who fail to see Restoration and New Life in our lives! – Sometimes, there comes a point when we settle in our circumstances, failing to believe that there could be a change in our situation. So, instead our reaching out to Jesus, we make excuses! And we plummet into the valley of monotony! – Today, the Spirit is saying, *By faith... put in the effort to reach out to Jesus*. – Ask Him to give you the faith to believe... then do your part!

6. **Pharisees Raging (11) – The KJV translate the word RAGE as, “Madness!”** – A **Raging Spirit** is usually accompanied by a **narrow mindset**. – **A handicapped man had been healed...** but they were **Only Concerned with** their interpretation of sabbath law violations.

P/A – God gave the law to help people... Not to hurt people! – Mark's gospel records that the *“Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath,”* (Mark 2:27) – This means that we really need

to examine why the Lord gave these commandments: **(1 Tim 1:5)**, *“Now the purpose of the Commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith...”*

- **When dealing with questions of Law**, the Greater Good is always to be chosen, **(Micah 6:8)** *He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?* – **This is the Right Pursuit!**

SEGUE: Knowing their madness and their desire to kill Him, at this point Jesus withdrew to the sea of Galilee to Rightfully Pursue another manner, *selecting apostles...*

II. SEEKING DISCIPLES (12-16) – **READ: The Right Selection** *“continued all night in prayer to God.”*

A. All Night Prayer (12) – This gives the impression that The selection of disciples was not a simple choice. – But it was the result of communion and consultation with the Father... this is the RIGHT PURUIT when making major decisions! *(When was the last time you sought God all night in prayer?)*

B. All Disciples Chosen (13) – A **Disciple** is one who is *disciplined* in learning and committed to following the ways of their Lord Jesus Christ. – Amongst the many following, **Jesus chose twelve disciples** and **specifically appointed them as apostles**, or **“sent ones”** with particular power to spread the Gospel message on His behalf. *(In their letters, Peter and Paul identified themselves by this calling)*

C. All Disciples Names (14-16) – In the Old Testament there were 12 tribes established in Israel. Here we see that Jesus chose 12 disciples because He was establishing a new government. – With the exception of one *(Judas Iscariot)*, these would go on to change the world!

- In the calling of **Matthew/Levi (5:27-28)**, I mentioned last week that he *“left all, rose up and followed Jesus.”* – Likewise, all of these men did the same, and became martyrs for Jesus...
- **The apostles were willing to lay down their lives** as their Lord laid down His life for all! – But until then, these apostles would hear, learn, obey, and promote the teachings of their Lord!

P/A – Jesus knew that the only way to know who to select for apostleship, was to spend the whole night in prayerful pursuit of His heavenly Father’s will. – **This is the Right Pursuit!**

III. SEEKING JESUS (17-19) – **READ: The Right Response** *“The whole multitude sought to touch Him”*

A. Coming Down (17a) – **Jesus Came Down!** I love how this parallels Jesus mission: After the *divine determination* was made in heaven, **Jesus was sent down to earth to dwell amongst us (John 1:14)**. **Jesus stood on the same level as you and me!** – He came to be with his people. To minister to them!

- His disciples were with Him and would see and learn how Jesus showed love and compassion to the multitudes. *(Which in turn, we should do likewise)*
- **On another note:** I found a striking parallel, which provides another contrast: **(Neh 9:13 ~ Luke 6:17)**. – **God came down to give the law on Mount Sinai**, but **Jesus came down and stood on a level place to deliver the beatitudes... Kingdom laws**, which manifest within the true disciples of Jesus Christ. *(As we will learn in upcoming passages)*

B. Crowds Drew Near (17b-18) – *Two crowds mentioned...* the crowd of **His disciples**, and the **great multitudes of people** from everywhere. – Notice that they first sought to Hear Jesus, and Healing is mentioned secondly. – **P/A:** *When we take a position of Seeking to Hear Jesus first His healing will follow in undocumented ways!* – **(Jam 4:8)** *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

C. Touching Jesus (19) – Once again we see *the mention of the power in the touch of Jesus*, so much more that the multitude sought to touch Him. – *Just like the woman with the issue of blood*, **(Luke 8:43)** we must come in faith, **knowing that He alone can heal.**

- Know that **OUR FAITH touches Jesus in a way that He welcomes**, so that He can Heal and Restore according to His divine purposes.
- Be assured that **Jesus is AWARE of** our motivations when coming to Him: **(Matt 15:8)** *‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.*
- On the contrary, *“...LET US draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 LET US hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.”* **(Heb 10:22-23)**

P/A – *The Right Pursuit must begin with having Right Motives!* – Here, the multitude had the right pursuit... **Jesus!** And when we have Jesus... we too can pray to the Father, *pursuing Him for His will to be done on earth, as it is in heaven, and in our lives!*