

Luke 6:1-16 – 5 March 2023

“There’s Something Bigger”

Introduction

*Since Chap 4 Jesus has been teaching of His identity & His mission to bring the Kingdom of God to people

*He’s calling people to trust & follow Him as Lord

*He’s been attracting many skeptics

*Skeptics are often skeptics b/c they’re focused on the wrong things

*Or b/c they’re seeing right things in wrong way

*Believers & non-believers both look at God’s principles; 1 sees an interrogator’s light & 1 sees a guiding light

*Question is will we seek to see things from God’s eternal point of view or only from man’s temporary “personal happiness” point of view

Today, we’ll see 3 ways Jesus refocuses us on the bigger purposes of our Christian life

1st way Jesus refocuses us is re: His principles: Bigger than prevention is the provision (Vs 1-5)

Read Vs 1

1. 2nd sabbath after the first? Means 2nd Sabbath after the Passover
2. This wasn't stealing, Read Deut 23:25

Read Vs 2

1. There comes a time in your witnessing that detractors begin watching you
2. Notice they assumed their laws into God's principles when they weren't there
3. Sabbath speaks of rest in creation that God wants to give to us (Read Heb 4:8-9)
 - a. Read Col 2:16-17 – Sabbath was pointing to Christ's rest
 - b. This account happened at time Jesus said (Read) Matt 11:28-30 – I'll give you rest

Read Vs 3-4

1. Jesus inserts (Read) Matt 12:7 – mercy not...
2. Sustaining life and provision for life is even of higher value than not working
3. God is more interested in us experiencing His mercy *for us* that our giving *to Him*
 - a. The sabbath is a provision for us not a prevention
 - b. When we require physical provision to live, God wants us to have it
4. Jesus also inserted (Read) Mark 2:27
 - a. Sabbath designed to help us, not harm us
5. In Matt 12:5-6 Jesus gives a 2nd example in which priests work on sabbath & it's no problem

Read Vs 5

1. Jesus says He has the right to declare what is acceptable on the Sabbath Day
 - a. Sabbath was a sign between God & Israel (Exo 31:13), but it began at Creation
 - b. Jesus is claiming authority of the Creator

2nd way Jesus refocuses us is re: His goals: Bigger than principles is the people (Vs 6-11)

Read Vs 6

1. He taught...b/c THAT was His mission
2. Only Dr. Luke says which hand it was

Read Vs 7

1. Matthew says they spoke up & asked Jesus if it's lawful to heal on the sabbath days
2. They had no interest in the cripple man or compassion, they only wished to condemn Jesus
3. Matthew records (Read Matt 12:11-12) that Jesus asked them
 - a. Lawful to pull your own sheep back to life?
 - b. Value of man is much greater, so we do it
4. Two lessons here
 - a. Sabbath law isn't to prevent us from having compassion on each other but to provide it
 - b. If we would see people as ones God has put around us for us to help (they're my sheep), then maybe we'd provide more compassion

Read Vs 8-9

1. Of course, the answer is that we should always do good
 - a. In Matthew 22:36-40 Pharisees asked what's the great commandment - love

Read Vs 10

1. Mark 3:5 says Jesus looked on them w/ anger for the hardness of their hearts
2. Jesus is looking for mercy, tenderness & help
 - a. He resists proud & give grace to the humble
3. Notice Jesus gave what looked like an impossible command, but the man obey in faith
 - a. Jesus does so for us; “Be anxious for nothing”, “love your enemies”, “Avoid fornication”

Read Vs 11

1. ‘Madness’ is *anoia* or a rage-filled stupidity
 - a. Word only used once other (II Tim 3:8-9) as folly
 - b. You have to willingly resist the truth to ether this

3rd way Jesus refocuses us is re: His methods: Bigger than the men is the mission (Vs 12-16)

Read Vs 12

1. Master, mission, mates – choosing who we invest our lives into is a matter of deep prayer

Read Vs 13

1. There're many following & learning from Him
2. These 12 were taken to receive power to be representations of Jesus with His original message
3. What's qualification of an apostle?
 - a. Have seen the resurrection (Act 1:22)
 - b. Work miracles (II Cor 12:12)
 - c. Chosen of Jesus Himself (Luke 6:13, Act 9:15)

Read Vs 14

1. Simon son of Jonah, Peter the fisherman w/ the foot-shaped mouth
2. Andrew the fisherman, Peter's brother, the apostle of little things
3. James & John sons of Zebedee fisherman whom Jesus names Boanerges (sons of thunder)

- a. John the beloved would write 5 NT books
4. Philip always listed as the 5th apostle
5. Nathaniel, Bartholomew (means son of Talmai)

Read Vs 15

1. Matthew Levi the tax collector son of Alphaeus
2. Thomas the doubter
3. James the less the son of Alphaeus
4. Simon the zealot the Canaanite

Read Vs 16

1. Judas the brother of James not Iscariot known as Lebbaeus Thaddaeus
2. Judas Iscariot the traitor
 - a. With the best circumstances and best teacher, he still went off the rails
3. All men from different backgrounds that are not, of themselves influential
 - a. Read I Cor 1:26-27 & 2:5 – God gets glory
 - b. Only 2 years from now til cross – they're about to undertake a radical transformation
 - c. We too can change world in next 2 years

Conclusion

So let be careful we don't focus on the wrong things

Major in the major things; & minor in the minor things

Are we focused in the bigger things that Jesus was focused on?

1. **Regarding His principles; God's Word isn't preventions but bigger than that, it's provision**
 - a. God has provided all the wisdom we need for life and godliness – He's helping us
2. **Regarding His goals; We're not just here to serve the principles, but bigger than that, we're here to serve the people**
 - a. We're not tallying up how many rules we've keep, but how many people we've presented Jesus to
3. **Regarding His methods; We don't just boast about men, but bigger than that, we boast about the mission**
 - a. God wants to use the humblest of tools to perform the work of reaching souls for Jesus