

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (March 13, 2022)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

There is a familiar cycle when it comes to politicians, entertainers, sports heroes. When they first arrive on scene, and if they perform reasonably, admiration grows. With success, and the roar of the crowd, that admiration reaches a crescendo most of us never experience. Your hometown throws you a parade. It seems you can do no wrong.

But the day comes, it always comes, when you hit a slump, you drop the ball, you vote your conscience, the box office dips, and the sharks begin to circle. It's usually a few at first. They craft careful questions with hidden agendas. You may be able to hold off the sharks with another great game, a clever political move, a once in a lifetime role, but you simply can't keep that up for ever. Sooner than you want the illusion is shattered, your limitations revealed. Eventually it's not just a few, but a herd of sharks converge (actually it's a "shiver" of sharks), and the biting begins. Wise is the performer or politician that knows this. Foolish is the one who dreams of endless adulation.

Jesus knew, from the beginning, the fickleness of crowds, flattery, and applause. His miraculous encounters, His piercing teaching, brought early adoration but also growing opposition. Behind sweet sounding words a row or two of sharp teeth. The pastors and best church people were the most ravenous. Jesus knew that. He did not deviate from His divine path. He did not hold back even though He knew those who hated Him wore His jersey and sung His public praise. We would do well to trust the dependable and endless love of God rather than the momentary and conditional love of others.

Opposition Grows (Luke 6:1-11)

¹On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands. ²But some of the Pharisees said, 'Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?' ³And Jesus answered them, 'Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: ⁴how he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?' ⁵And he said to them, 'The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.'

⁶On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered. ⁷And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse

him. ⁸But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand, 'Come and stand here.' And he rose and stood there. ⁹And Jesus said to them, 'I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?' ¹⁰And after looking around at them all he said to him, 'Stretch out your hand.' And he did so, and his hand was restored. ¹¹But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus."

What Does it Say?

1. Why did Jesus face such fierce and early opposition?
2. What do we know about the religious leaders in these verses?
3. How did Jesus respond to the opposition He experienced?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

4. Why did Jesus include the story about David eating the bread of Presence? Read 1 Samuel chapters 21 & 22.
5. What does, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath" mean?
6. What does it mean, "It is not lawful to do on the Sabbath"?
7. Why were the pastors & good church people "filled with fury"?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

8. Why did God give His people rules & laws?
9. As a Christian, what rules and laws given by God are you required to keep?
10. How do you obey the Sabbath commandment? Do you need to? What is the purpose of the Sabbath command?
11. What is (are) the most important command(s) of God that you try to obey as you live your life?
12. In what ways do the rules you have for others (consciously or unconsciously) create barriers for those seeking God? What are those rules? What would Jesus say about your rules?

Notes: _____

As you spend time praying remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural, easy, and empowering part of your day. Prayer is talking to God, knowing that He hears you, and that He loves you. In your prayers ask God to help you grow in grace, in kindness, in love for others, even those who do not follow your rules. Ask God to help you keep your mind and heart focused on what is most important. Ask God to help you let go of small things, minor irritations, stiff rules as you grow in your care for, love and acceptance of, others. God will help you love Him more too because He loves you.