

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"JESUS WAS THE MASTER TRAINER" | LUKE 6: 1-19 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What comes to mind when you think of team building?

"The Preeminence of Jesus" (Luke 6: 1-11)

Jesus defends his disciples eating on Sabbath and challenges His critics by healing on the Sabbath, showing its more important to be authentically loving than religiously legal. **What are ways people struggle with legalism today? What helps resisting legalism?**

"The Proteges of Jesus" (Luke 6: 12-16)

Jesus prays and then chooses the 12 apostles, each with different personalities and backgrounds. **What is comforting about Jesus' example of choosing His team? What is challenging about His example?**

"The Power of Jesus" (Luke 6: 17-19)

Jesus had a large group of disciples and even larger group of a crowd who came to hear teachings, be healed, and have unclean spirits removed, meeting people's needs. **How can Jesus' followers today be part of similar efforts to explain who God is and meet needs?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus was constantly showing to the crowd, His apostles and even His critics that He met people where they were at with what they truly needed so they could have the chance to move towards who God created them to be, no matter where they've been or what they've done. **Have you been stuck on your own rules, your own past, or are you letting Jesus and His Word lead you? Pray for God to continue to show you patience and fresh examples of how He can use you.**

Jesus was the Master Trainer

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

A. Slide2-4 Lar: C@R. Womens Retreat. Easter Weekend.

B. Prayer: 1st day of Spring. *As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night.* Gen.8:22

II. Slide5 **Intro:** Jesus was the Master Trainer

A. The strictness with which the Sabbath was observed was *a point of pride* with the Pharisees. *adapted from Donald Miller*

1. After the **Temple**, **The Sabbath** was considered *the most valuable treasure of Judaism*.
2. In the OT, **the Sabbath** was related both to **creation**/Gen 2 & **redemption**/Deut 5
 - a) It was *a weekly reminder* that the God who had created the universe *was present with them*, and that He had given them rest by redeeming them from their bondage in Egypt.
3. **The purpose** of the Sabbath law was **Glory to God**, **the means** was *cessation from work*.
 - a) The Pharisees, however, had *forgotten the purpose*, and had turned **the means** into **an end**. *To do-no-work* was to *keep* the Sabbath?
 - (1) **The Glory of God** was *forgotten*.
 - b) Hence, the Sabbath had become *a day of prohibitions*, many of which were *laughable*. **Work had to be defined**: It was divided into **39 categories**, each of which was **broken down further**. To keep the Sabbath rightly, therefore, one had to *remember dozens of specific rules* about things *not to do!*¹

III. Slide6 **THE PREEMINENCE OF JESUS (1-11)** *Lord of the Sabbath (READ 1-5)*

A. Slide7 **HARVESTING ON THE SABBATH (1-5)** *Jesus claims authority over the Sabbath*

¹ Donald Miller

1. The law did not specifically prohibit plucking heads of grain. Rather, the Pharisees apparently viewed this activity as *harvesting*, which violated the command against **working on** the Sabbath.
2. Although this OT story did **not take place on the Sabbath**, Jesus uses it to show that *it is permissible to carry out unlawful acts for the purpose of meeting human needs*.

a) Because *The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath*. Mark.2:27

B. Slide8 HEALING ON THE SABBATH (6-11) (READ 6-11) *Priority of human needs over religious observance*

1. Slide9 (6,7) They just knew that's who **Jesus** would be attracted to ... **the one person** that was **hurting the most**.
 - a) Do you see it? They just knew **He** couldn't pass up **compassion**. What an *unconscious compliment* to our Lord!
2. A 2nd demonstration of *His superiority over the Sabbath*.
3. Another time Jesus says, *which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? Of how much more value is a man than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath*. Mt 12:11,12
4. Bottom line: *People's needs trump legal observance*.

C. Slide10a Can I strip away *the Sabbath issue* here and still ask Jesus' question to us today ... *Should we do good or do harm, save life or destroy it ... regarding any individual need in front of us?*

1. Are we acting in some way for *the person's recovery*, or acting for *their perpetuation of their misery*?
2. Shouldn't it be our new goal to never leave anyone how you found them? When we depart from them *may their soul be lifted up, encouraged, or brought before the throne of God!* [there is always a way to encourage]

a) On some streets of Nepal by my hotel, there are always beggars in the *exact same places, every day, all day*. Mostly mothers and their little children. [professionals yep! but they're people, they're children. *bread/candy*]

3. It is always right to *do good & to meet human need, for love fulfills the law*

a) Slide10b Rom.13:8 *Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.*

b) Micah 6:8 *the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*

D. Slide11 So maybe our take away is this: you can't only live by asking, *is it lawful?* you must start asking, *is it loving?*

1. The scribes and Pharisees *flipped* the Sabbath, from a day of blessing into a day of bondage. (it takes great skill to do that!)

2. Think about it: *man was made on day?* (6) *The day God rested was on what day?* (7). So, man's 1st day was his sabbath rest. (that's like your new employer saying, *your 1st day of pay is tomorrow, but don't come in, take the day off!*) *said no boss ever!*

3. Side note: Jesus did 7 miracles on the Sabbath so they'd get the point.

IV. Slide12 THE PROTÉGÉS OF JESUS (12-16) (READ 12-16)

A. Slide13a Jesus was the Master Trainer. He wrote the book when it comes to *Leadership*.

1. Here we see Jesus making the selection of the 12 key players that will serve as the foundation for the NT church.

2. 2 Tim.2:2, *and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.* *Discipleship principle.*

3. Later Jesus would choose 70 others for a mission tour (Luke 10:1).

- B. Although the order of the 12 apostles varies across the lists in Mt, Mrk, & Lk, yet all 3 give priority to **Peter** and mention *Judas Iscariot last*.
- C. What would be **the role** of the 12 Apostles *as distinct from the other disciples*?
1. **Slide13b Special** calling, privilege, charge, mission. **Special** authority (role of ambassadors). **Special** authenticating signs and wonders. **Special** suffering and martyrdom.
 2. Several of them wrote a good portion of the NT (Mt, Peter, James, John)
- D. **All night He continued in prayer** - before choosing the apostles, Jesus seeks **solitude** and **conversation** with **God the Father**. (He sought communion w/His Father)
1. Luke often describes Jesus praying before major events.
 2. **But Judas Iscariot???** **after praying all night?** maybe it's the old adage, *Keep your friends close and your enemies closer!*
- E. So we see **diversity of Personalities** (God loves variety. He created variety). They were largely a **Blue Collar Group** (**not** the elite of society. **not** the well-educated. **not** the well-connected that you might expect would become *movers and shakers* in such a worldwide movement). **Just 12 ordinary flawed guys. Slide13c**
1. God is able to **use us** despite our **sins** and **failures** and **inadequacies**.
- F. **Jesus uses every sort of individuality**²
1. **Are you determined, adventurous, original, a born leader type?** He will humble you **and** make you loyal, like **Peter**.
 2. **Are you a keen observer, a deep thinker, maybe leadership isn't your #1 gift?** He will use you for insight and teaching others, like **John**.
 3. **Are you full of questions, even doubt, & move forward w/hesitation?** Jesus can train intellectual questioners and use them to bless others, like **Thomas** or **Nathanael**.

² Adapted from The Gospel of Luke, Griffith Thomas, pg119. (1861-1924) Anglican Dispensationalist Theologian who founded Dallas Theological Seminary with Lewis Chafer.

4. Are you a practical man/woman, familiar w/public affairs? Christ will avail Himself of your administrative ability, like **Matthew & Judas** (sorry to link you w/Judas, **but** he was the *Treasure* for the group).
5. Do you have directness, straightforwardness, a self-reliance about you? Jesus will take these & enable you to give assurance & confidence to others, like **James & Andrew**.
6. Are you deliberate, slow in arriving at decisions, earnest inquirer after truth? Christ will utilize your good points & energize you in His service, like **Philip**.
7. Are you unknown, inconspicuous, unimportant? Christ can use you also, “*you in your small corner, me in mine*”, like **the other James, the other Simon, & the other Judas**. [They didn’t even bear an exclusive name]

G. I think of our own staff & ministry leaders here at CM.

1. We are very diverse: we have the deep thinkers. those who keep us sane with humor. some who love the arts. some especially gifted to deal with those who are hurting. some w/analytical minds. some that love working with numbers. some w/strong personalities, some with soft.
 - a) Are you being all that God designed you to be? Use your gifts, utilize your imagination, apply your passions.
 - b) Does it encourage you that **Jesus** had so much patience with the 12, educating them, bearing with their worldly hopes, & clumsy mistakes? **Their** training was **His constant care**. *And so is ours!*

V. Slide14 **THE POWER OF JESUS (17-19)** (READ 17-19)

- A. (17) Jesus now descends from the mount of *choosing* (where He picked apostles).
 1. He descends to **a level plain** and has a marvelous ministry of healing, both physical & spiritual.
- B. Slide15a This is the set up for the *Beatitudes* that start in vs.20.

- C. It seems to be *different* from Matthews *Sermon on the Mount*, as this is Luke's *Sermon on the Plain* (level place). *The differences include ...*
1. The **Location** is different (mount vs. level place). **Occasion** is different.
 2. The **Content** is different (both have diff content the other doesn't have).
 3. **The Listeners** are different (disciples (in Mt) **vs.** disciples + many others (Lk))
- D. Jesus could have delivered the same teachings, with just slight changes, on different occasions.
1. **I have/do.** I might take an excerpt from something I've taught and share it a little differently because it's a different hearers (children, youth, diff cntry)
 2. **It's the same truth** told slightly differently, to different audiences, for different purposes.
- E. **Wrap up:** You don't need to memorize the names of the Apostles. It's not important who they were, **but** what they were challenged to become.
1. **Slide15b** It's not important where you've been **or** what you've done. What's important is where you're going **and** what you're going to do.
 2. Jesus says, the challenge is for you to **become like Me**. **And you will be!**
 - a) Jump ahead and read vs.39,40 (esp ... *will be like his teacher*).
- F. **Follower of Jesus**, forget *your version of success*, **next week** we'll look at **His version of success** in the beatitudes/*sermon on the level plain*.
- G. Keywords: Disciple, Glory, God, Healing, Jesus, Prayer, love.