

Looking Unto Jesus

a chronological study of the life of Christ

Luke 5:33-39; Matthew 12:1-8; Mark 3:1-6

Lesson 8

But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless (Matthew 12:7). We will discover in all three accounts of this lesson, men who chose their own imposed rules over mercy. May we learn to seek God's heart in those gray areas where we are tempted to lean on our own understanding of His will.

Luke 5:33-39

OVERVIEW

1. Read the verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). In this lesson, we will be marking the key characters of the text. Mark each of the key characters each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to each one.

Key Characters: *Jesus* and *bridegroom*

Key Words: *new* and *old*
3. If you were one of the Pharisees who challenged Jesus, how do you think you would have reacted to His use of the two illustrations?

APPLICATION:

1. We join Jesus in this story as He is in the midst of being questioned by the Pharisees. They had questioned Him about *eating and drinking with tax collectors*. That was in opposition of their religious practices. They compared Jesus' disciples with John the Baptist's disciples and the Pharisees. What was the difference?
 - a. Two of Jesus' disciples, John and Andrew, had been disciples of John the Baptist. What thoughts or beliefs do you think might have helped them to change their behavior when they began to follow Jesus?

2. The first illustration that Jesus gave was that of the *bridegroom*. What did He say?
 - a. The weddings of those days were often some of the most joyous times for both the wedding party and those in attendance. It was a time of celebration. All would agree that fasting would not be called for at a wedding. What are some points that Jesus would have us understand as we relate this illustration to the Pharisee's challenge?

 - b. What behaviors do you think Jesus was desiring from His disciples while He was with them?

3. Jesus recognized the call to fast for other times. He spoke of *days coming when the bridegroom will be taken away from them*. Record the words of the first phrase Daniel 9:26.
 - a. Jesus' days on this earth will be cut off. He would be crucified, rise, and ascend to heaven - until He again steps foot on this earth. What is the benefit of *fasting* at times until He returns?

4. Jesus followed His illustration of the *bridegroom* with a *parable* speaking of *old* and *new wine* and *wineskins*. Jesus did not come to patch up old practices; nor did He come to conform to the ways designated by the religious leaders. According to Luke 5:36,37, *what will happen if someone: puts a piece from a new garment on an old garment?*

puts new wine into old wineskins?
 - a. This parable relates to a lot more than *eating and drinking*. It related to any effort made to conform someone to our own religious thinking, outside of the mandates of the Bible. What are some examples of topics that Christians view differently?

- b. In what ways can trying to merge new thinking with old (or the ways of man with the ways of God) *tear*?
5. Consider the words of verse 39. It is difficult for most people to give up the old ways of doing things and embrace new ways. Yet the work of the Holy Spirit could not work within the confines of a man altered legalistic religion. What is different about the ways of the Pharisees and the ways of Jesus?
6. In what ways has your thinking of what God requires changed since you became a believer?

Matthew 12:1-8

OVERVIEW

1. Read through the verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed key words below. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). In this lesson, we will be marking the key characters of the text. Mark each of the key characters each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to each one.

Key Characters: *Jesus, God, and David*

Key Word: *Sabbath*
3. Jesus recounted to the Pharisees, who were challenging Him, *what David did when he was hungry*. What did David do?

APPLICATION

1. Matthew 12:1-8 reveals another time when the Pharisees confronted Jesus regarding the practices of His disciples. They were not questioning "what" the disciples were doing. They were questioning "when" they were doing it. It was the *Sabbath*. Read God's instructions regarding the Sabbath in Exodus 20:8-11. What rules were stated?
 - a. From these verses, religious leaders took it upon themselves to specifically answer the questions, *what is work?* and *what is holy?* There are 18 chapters, covering 39 different

categories, related to the commandments of keeping the *Sabbath*. Why do you think some have the tendencies to require of people actions that God has not required?

2. Matthew 12:1 tells us that Jesus' *disciples were hungry*. What did they do?
 - a. According to the Pharisees, this was *not lawful to do on the Sabbath*. It was considered *work*. Jesus began His response to them with the words, *Have you not read?* What have you discovered about Scripture providing answers to your questions or dilemmas?
 - 1.) What might have happened if the Pharisees would have been led by God's word rather than their opinions?
3. The *disciples were hungry* and thus, met their hunger by *plucking heads of grain* to eat. Jesus countered with the story of David when he was hungry in 1 Samuel 21. David was fleeing Saul and went to the priest overseeing the tabernacle. The tabernacle was always to have fresh bread called shewbread, a symbol of God's everlasting covenant and provision for Israel. Each day the shewbread was to be replaced with fresh bread; the day-old bread was to be eaten by the priest and his family. Yet, although *unlawful* the priest gave the bread to David and his men to eat. Record the last word of Matthew 12:5 which declares God's judgment for this action.
 - a. Define the word *blameless*.
4. Record Jesus' words in verse 6.
 - a. As Solomon was dedicating the temple in all it's wonderful beauty, he was reminded of the glory of God. What did he declare in 2 Chronicles 6:18?
 - b. Describe the importance of Jesus' words over man's opinion.
 - 1.) Jesus accused them of not understanding His words in Hosea 6:6. Write the entire verse.
 - a.) They did not understand the heart of God. What is your understanding of the heart behind this verse?
 - b.) What did Jesus say would have happened if they understood this? (Note: the word *guiltless* is the same Greek word translated as *blameless* in verse 5.)

c.) This does not give us license to ignore the commands of God when we feel like *mercy* can be applied. Why or why not?

5. The section ends with Jesus declaring two titles about Himself. What are they?

a. What do you think Jesus was telling the disciples when He declared this about Himself?

Mark 3:1-6

OVERVIEW

1. Read through the verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). In this lesson, we will also be marking the key characters of the text. Mark each of the key characters each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to each one.

Key Characters/ words: *Jesus, man/withered hand/hand, and Sabbath*

3. Recount the story as you would if you were in the synagogue that day.

APPLICATION:

1. This story follows the parallel account of the Pharisees confronting Jesus regarding His disciples plucking grain on the Sabbath. It was the same Sabbath that we find Jesus in the synagogue. *A man was there who had a withered hand.* The Pharisees noticed. They were watching Jesus closely to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath. As you read the underlined words, what were your observations?

2. Jesus instructed the man to *step forward.* Then what did He say to those who were *watching Him?*

- a. Re-write Jesus' words using your own words.
 - 1.) What does Jesus desire that we understand?
3. The Pharisees saw a *man with a withered hand*. Their thoughts were those of wondering if Jesus would break their Sabbath Law. Using verse 5, what did Jesus see that *angered* Him?
 - a. Describe the heart of an unbeliever according to Ephesians 4:18.
 - 1.) In what ways were you like that before you trusted Jesus?
4. Although Jesus knew He would be met with great disapproval, what did Jesus tell the *man with the withered hand*?
 - a. Jesus healed the man's hand, *restoring it as whole as the other*. From that moment, the man would no longer be called *the man with the withered hand*. Consider some names that could be applied to you before Jesus changed you. What are your thoughts?
5. Contemplate the reaction and plans of the Pharisees after this miraculous and merciful healing. Recollect a time when your thoughts/reactions were not that different. What thoughts have been provoked from this story?

REVIEW

1. What did you learn from this lesson about the heart of Jesus?

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
- Matthew 5:7

Observation Worksheet

Luke 5:33-39 Then they said to Him, "Why do the disciples of John fast often and make prayers, and likewise those of the Pharisees, but Yours eat and drink?" ³⁴ And He said to them, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them? ³⁵ But the days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them; then they will fast in those days." ³⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them: "No one puts a piece from a new garment on an old one; otherwise the new makes a tear, and also the piece that was taken out of the new does not match the old. ³⁷ And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. ³⁸ But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved. ³⁹ And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better.' "

Matthew 12:1-8 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. And His disciples were hungry, and began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. ² And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Look, Your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath!" ³ But He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: ⁴ how he entered the house of God and ate the showbread which was not lawful for him to eat, nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests? ⁵ Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless? ⁶ Yet I say to you that in this place there is One greater than the temple. ⁷ But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸ For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

Mark 3:1-6 And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand. ² So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. ³ And He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Step forward." ⁴ Then He said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they kept silent. ⁵ And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. ⁶ Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.