



# Study 1

## Luke 5:33-6:16

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The 'they' in Luke 5:33 seems to refer the Pharisees and teachers of the law. They have already been dialoguing with Jesus (see 5:21, 30). Robust discussion is taking place as they call on Jesus to justify his actions.

Their dialogue with Jesus reminds us of his dialogue with Satan in 4:1-13 which takes place shortly after his baptism - the moment when the voice from heaven reveals who he truly is. The temptation dialogue appears to frame this whole section of Luke. Through the dialogue with the Jewish leaders that follows, Jesus is being revealed to Israel.

The reading of Isaiah 61:1-3 in the synagogue in Jesus' home town also frames this section. It is significant as the manifesto that Jesus will follow. Jesus' claim is that the prophecy is fulfilled that very day (4:21) and demonstrably so in the actions which follow.

Questions that we can be asking ourselves at this point are, "What idea do we have of Jesus?" and "What would we have been looking out for if we had been living at that time waiting for the Messiah's appearance?"

### FLOW OF THE PASSAGE

1. Jesus questioned about fasting associated with John the Baptist compared with him.
2. Jesus questioned about the actions of his disciples plucking grain on the sabbath.
3. Jesus questioned about healing on the sabbath.
4. Jesus chooses the 12.

## Some Suggested Study Questions to choose from

### A. ACTING ACCORDING TO THE MOMENT (LUKE 5:33-39)

1. What is the tone of the Pharisees' question in verse 33? See also verses 21 & 30.
2. What does Jesus' answer tell us about the moment in which they are living?
3. What is different about the two phrases, "make them fast, v34" and "they will fast, v35"? Why won't you need to make the disciples fast on that day?
4. How do the 2 parables challenge the hearers? (verses 36-38). What should they do in the light of them?
5. The preference for the old wine over the new of verse 39. In what sense is this an accurate description of what is taking place in Jesus ministry?

### *For us.....*

How would you use Jesus' teaching here to respond to a person who says, "I'm finding reading the Old Testament pretty dull and unmotivating. Why should we bother with it?"

### **B. THE PHARISEES MISS THE MOMENT AGAIN (LUKE 6:1-5)**

The background to this passage is found in 1 Samuel 21:1-6. Read these verses before answering the following:

1. If the exception made in this passage was appropriate for king David, how much more is it appropriate for Jesus to do what he is doing?
2. The teaching here is less concerned with what we are to do than about the recognition of who Jesus is. What does it mean for us to say that Jesus is Lord of the sabbath?
3. When Jesus says in the synagogue that Isaiah 63:1-3 is fulfilled back then, why should we not be surprised when he does what he does with his disciples in the grain field?

### **C. HEALING ON THE SABBATH**

Read Exodus 31:12-17 to see how serious it was to break the sabbath.

1. Luke doesn't tell us exactly why the Pharisees were so furious in their reaction to the healing of the man with the withered hand. Why do you think they were so angry?

### **D. JESUS CALLS THE TWELVE**

Jesus' great authority and mastery over evil and sickness is in contrast with his humble dependence in prayer.

1. How can we put these two things together?

## **Putting it all together**

This passage is more about Jesus than about us. However it does makes us think about how hardened towards towards God and his plans the "religious" heart can be. Ask God to give us soft hearts as we continue to explore Jesus revealed. Soft hearts will always lead to action.

Can you think of one thing to change in your life to express Jesus' lordship? Share it with your group and pray about it together.