

Note: *Under the Old Covenant, the seventh day (Saturday) was set aside for worship and rest; and no person, slave, or beast was permitted to work. Every Sabbath, 12 loaves of bread were replaced in the Temple; the old ones were eaten by the Levitical priests. Sabbath observance was greatly emphasized as a symbol of Israel's unique relationship with God and its distinctiveness among nations.*

1. When the Pharisees criticized Jesus and his disciples for plucking and eating grain on the Sabbath, how did Jesus use scripture (1 Sam 21:1-6) to answer them? (Luke 6:1-5)
2. The Pharisees were “filled with fury” after Jesus healed the man with the withered hand. (Luke 6:6-11) What was the question Jesus asked the Pharisees about being lawful, and why do you think they took such offense at his response? (Luke 6:9)
3. Jesus named his twelve apostles only after he spent the night in prayer with his Father. (Luke 6:12)
 - a. Why do you think Jesus chose 12 apostles?
 - b. *Reflection:* What can we learn from Jesus about making important decisions?
4. Why did Jesus attract great crowds when he moved around Tyre and Sidon, two coastal cities in which the people were predominantly Gentiles? (Luke 6:17-19)

Note: *Luke's sermon on the plain (Luke 6:20-49) is much shorter than Matthew's sermon on the mount, which takes up three full chapters. (Matt 5:1 to 7:28)*

5. Notice the difference between Luke's first beatitude (Luke 6:20) and Matthew's first beatitude. (Matt 5:3) Do you think they are saying the same thing, and which version do you prefer?
6. In the Beatitudes, the Aramaic word that Jesus used for “Blessed” implies a grace, a blessing, a gift, which in turn implies that such gifts are to be “opened” and used. Consider any one of the beatitudes and explain how it is a “gift” or “blessing” and how it could be used to help bring about the kingdom of God.
7. After stating the beatitudes, Luke has Jesus adding four Woes. (Luke 6:24-26) Do these “woes” help to clarify the message of Jesus?
8. Jesus warns against retaliation and tells us to show love in several new ways. What new way of loving would you find most difficult and why? (Luke 6:27-36)
9. In Luke 6:37-49, Jesus floods the listeners with many parables. As you reflect on them:
 - a. Which parable is among your favorites?
 - b. Whom does Jesus call a “hypocrite” and why?
10. The parable of the builders is about preparation and practical living. Spiritually, how would you describe the differences between a wise builder and a foolish builder? (Luke 6:48-49)

If you would like a challenge?

11. “A good person brings good out of the treasure of good things in his heart; a bad person brings bad out of his treasure of bad things. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.” (Luke 6:45) Apply this verse to your habits of speech. How do you speak when you become irritated or impatient? How do you speak of others (especially family members) who do not behave as you wish? What do your speech habits say about “the abundance” of your heart?