

Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

Part 15: The Disciples Playbook



Today's Big Question: How does following Jesus affect the way I live?

Luke 6:24-36 (NKJV): Jesus Pronounces Woes

- ²⁴ "But woe to you who are rich,
For you have received your consolation.
- ²⁵ Woe to you who are full,
For you shall hunger.
Woe to you who laugh now,
For you shall mourn and weep.
- ²⁶ Woe to you when all men speak well of you,
For so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Love Your Enemies

²⁷ "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. ²⁹ To him who strikes you on the *one* cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold *your* tunic either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask *them* back. ³¹ And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

³² "But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend *to those* from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. ³⁵ But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. ³⁶ Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

Let's jump into the message:

The Disciples' Playbook:

Avoid these "Disciple Dangers"

Danger #1: _____ Now & _____ Later (v. 24).

- If all you have is worldly riches, then you are truly poor!
- He who dies with the most toys, still dies!

What advice does the Bible give to those who are materially wealthy?

- Where your treasure is, there your heart will follow. So be sure to invest in those things that really matter (Matthew 6:19-21).
- It's okay to have money, but it's not okay for money to have you! You can't serve two Masters (Matthew 6:24).
- Being wealthy should not give you a sense of power that you use against the wellbeing of others who have less than you do (James 5:1-6).
- Money makes a good servant but a horrible master. Never fall in love with money (I Timothy 6:10, Hebrews 13:5).
- Don't allow great money to produce great pride in your life. Instead become rich in good works towards the things of God (I Timothy 6:17-19).

I Timothy 6:17-19: ¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. ¹⁸ *Let them* do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, ¹⁹ storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Danger #2: _____ Now & _____ Later (v. 25a).

- What are you full of?
- What does it look like to be full of Jesus?
 - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control.

Romans 13:11-14: ¹¹ And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk

properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

Danger #3: _____ Now & _____ Later (v. 25b).

- Is God against laughing? Absolutely not.
 - Nehemiah 8:10; The joy of the Lord is your strength.
 - Proverbs 17:22; A merry heart does good, *like* medicine, But a broken spirit dries the bones.
 - Psalm 126:2-3; ² Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."
³ The LORD has done great things for us, And we are glad.
- What kind of laughter is Luke talking about here? Laughter that is based upon the depravity of man rather than the goodness of God!

Isaiah 5:20-21; ²⁰ Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

²¹ Woe to *those who are* wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!

- You shall mourn and weep—

Danger #4: _____ Now & _____ Later (v. 26).

- Did you know that Jesus often got criticized more than He got praised?
- If everyone praises you and no one criticizes you, that simply means that you are just doing what everyone wants you to do!
- If you are going to do anything great, you will receive great criticism!

John 15:18-21; ¹⁸ "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.

Let's Open the Disciples' Playbook on how to live in your daily life:

Life Lesson #1: Love the _____ (v. 27, 32).

- Love those who don't like you and even hate you!
- Do good things even to those who hate you.
- The way of the disciple is to love and bless those who can't return the favor.

Life Lesson #2: Do _____ to those who do _____ to you (v. 28-29, 33).

- How is it possible to bless those who are cursing us and praying for those who are preying against us?
- Turn the other cheek—recognizing that God is in control...and because God is in control, I will not lose control even if you lose control!

Life Lesson #3: Be _____ both to the needy and the _____ (v. 30, 34).

- Give—Christians are to be known as givers and not just as takers!
- Some who takes from you—don't wig out when someone takes from you because you know that God will replace it...and He will give you something far better than what was taken from you!
- Lend—Helping those who desperately need it.

Life Lesson #4: _____ others like you would like to be treated (v. 31, 35-36).

People skills 101—

#1: Treat others like you want to be treated

#2: Love others like you want to be loved!

#3: Give to others--gifts that you would want to receive yourself!

#4: Show mercy to others because you will need it one day yourself!

Making it Stick:

How to win in life—The Disciples' Scorecard: 3 Checkpoints

- ✓ Love-How well do I love others?
- ✓ Live-How do I treat those who are hard to deal with?
- ✓ Give-Am I generous even to those who can't repay me?

Take Home Truth: *Love* like Jesus, *Live* like Jesus, and *Give* like Jesus.

Action Steps:

- *Do you have a "problem person" in your life right now? Do something good for them! Send them a present, make them a meal, or write them a card.*
- *Do you have someone in your life that has great needs but doesn't have a grateful heart? Find a way to bless them anyway!*

Make a decision this week? Please let us know on your Connection Card.

Preview for next Sunday: "Avoiding the Blame Game" from Luke 6:37-45.