

[Andrew His Brother] / Gospel of Luke Chapter Six

~ This will be our third trip through the cornfields with Jesus and His apostles on the Sabbath Day. We know the multitudes of healed and blessed people didn't bother to donate enough money to buy food, so the disciples are plucking raw corn, wheat – whatever they can find – and it's not tasty; but the Pharisees want to kill them for even eating by calling this servile work on the Sabbath. At least, they want to kill Jesus for allowing His followers to do this lawless deed; so, it stands to reason they would all die likewise with Him. I guess it doesn't matter to the religious rulers that the apostles need bodily nutrition and physical strength. The Pharisee's aren't interested in Jesus answers or explanations, either; the only reason they question Him was in an attempt to trap Him in His own words, by which they could declare blaspheme and summarily kill Him. That is their plan, make no mistake. His actions and His attitude about the Sabbath Day have made Him hated and less than unpopular. See, friends, if you seek to follow the Lord, it's going to cost you something – and that something is everything....

1 And it came to pass on the second Sabbath after the first, that he went through the corn fields; and his disciples plucked the ears of corn, and did eat, rubbing them in their hands.

2 And certain of the Pharisees said unto them, Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the Sabbath days?

3 And Jesus answering them said, Have ye not read so much as this, what David did, when himself was an hungred, and they which were with him;

4 How he went into the house of God, and did take and eat the shewbread, and gave also to them that were with him; which it is not lawful to eat but for the priests alone?

5 And he said unto them, That the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.

6 And it came to pass also on another Sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered.

7 And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the Sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him.

8 But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth.

~ This sick man was as much of a planted prop as any Hollywood walk-on extra is in one of their plays. The Pharisee's set this man where Jesus would heal him, which was really a supreme compliment; and guess what happened? The man with the withered hand was healed! Of course, having done this on the Sabbath Day gives them another opportunity to accuse Jesus....

9 Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the Sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it?

10 And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

11 And they were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus.

~ The Pharisee's were literally coming unglued with hate towards Jesus. Their anger was causing them to think irrationally. Matthew told us they plotted His death from that moment on. It became a religious mob obsession. Some dedicated their lives to destroying Jesus at this time. Well, as we move along now; many people will think we have seen the following account before in the Sermon on the Mount. The Scofield Bible has it listed that way. I totally disagree; because Luke says they stood in the plain at verse seventeen. So, this would have to be the Sermon on the Plain – if we're to give it a name!

The similarities to the other accounts indicate that these teachings were given out afresh again and again. A harmony in the Gospels isn't needed, friends; what we need is a contrast of the Gospels! I am absolutely positive this sermon was given many times in many different places. The most remarkable things about the account of this incident given by Luke are not the similarities to other Gospel writers, but the DIS-similarities. The omissions – and certain additional distinct inclusions – are the significant differentiating factors. Blessings, woes and the beatitudes of judgments make this remarkably and wholly separate from the Sermon on the Mount as presented by Matthew. The attitude of the people's reception and rejection of the prophet of God is all included here! That is a major, fundamental and key demarcation.

What we have first, however, and briefly, are the twelve that are chosen as apostles. Jesus first met these men in Jerusalem, and they were later called by Him. They left off from fishing at that time; but they went back to fishing again. We reported last that when they were called the third time, they brought the ships to land and forsook all to follow Him. Well, I think many were called and now a few are chosen. It's probably a good idea to pray like Jesus – all night – about choosing people to be in your life. Even one of these turned out to be a traitor....

12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

14 Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew,

15 Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes,

~ Men of God are always chosen. They begin as candidates, but God tells us we have not chosen Him – HE has chosen us! That is a great comfort to me, friends. I was a broken home child in an impoverished church in the

middle of an orange grove when the Lord chose me. I didn't know the first thing about God. Well, I knew one thing: God called me that day; so, this life that seems wrecked is HIS responsibility. I sure didn't call Him! I love that fact of life. Most people view election as a fearful doctrine – I say it's a great comfort when we understand what the Word of God really means.

Jesus found it essential to spend the entire night in prayer before selecting apostles. People in your life should be chosen on the basis of a whole lot of prayers, friends. You better make sure they are God's chosen before you let them in. The robe of Elijah didn't accidentally fall on Elisha – that robe fell providentially. The present-day procedures we use to choose people for leadership are very far from His standards, you may be absolutely sure. We follow feelings and consult our intellect. Mostly, we choose people based on our own selfish lusts and desires. Using the human measuring rod as opposed to His is a certain design failure....

16 And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

17 And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases;

18 And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed.

19 And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.

~ It's interesting that when the modern faith healer talks about healing, they never directly claim they can do it – but they do assume an attitude that God is obligated to heal on their command. I realize most people are too caught up in their own conceit to comprehend this Biblical truth; and when confronted with their inconsistencies and ridiculousness, they usually act like they feel sorry for me. They seem to be sad that I don't have what they have! May I say? The hocus pocus and abra-cadabra religion is just a cattle call to blaspheme. Claiming healing isn't doing anything for God,

friends. Touching people and falling back and forth and upside down; and then the wheel-chair man does a cart-wheel – well, even Jesus healed from a distance. If you have the gift of healing, why you don't heal from a distance? Heal me, in fact – right now – healers! I will swing by the doctors tomorrow and verify if you have been successful. Sound reasonable? Jesus doesn't do it your way, friends. You can just write that down....

20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.

~ The Sermon on the Plain begins just as the Sermon on the Mount did in Matthew. I can see plainly in verse seventeen that Jesus gave the same messages again and again – I think the apostles may have become a little tired of the teaching, honestly. Today, I have boiled the purpose of life down to two words – Bible study! I KNOW it gets monotonous to some people – but not to me! What's different in this section of Scripture is the FORM of the presentation....

21 Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.

22 Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

23 Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.

~ Now, we must pause and carefully examine the attitude of the nation Israel towards the prophets that had been sent to them. The true prophet will continue to speak for God through unbearable persecution. The false prophet folds the moment he is patronized by others. The result of the antagonism genuine children of God experience today from the religious crowd is a complete turn off to the Word of God by a dead and unbelieving world. The true prophet must have a quiet confidence about eternal and unseen things. The prophet in Israel was poor, hungry, weak, hated, outcast, reproached and they were called evil! Nothing has changed today.

If we actually teach the Bible correctly, properly and completely we are going to have a rough time. If that is not the case, then something is very wrong in that ministry. The false prophets were rich, they had plenty to eat and they were all laughing as one big group together....

24 But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation.

25 Woe unto you that are full! For ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep.

~ The true prophet will be hated and rejected by the world continuously; whereas the false prophet who will say the right thing the right way to the right crowd will be accepted and paid very well. The difference is: the rich man has everything he is ever going to have and, when it's gone, it's gone; the prophet of God has eternal riches! If you are popular with the world then you are notorious with God! If you have never written ANYTHING down, you might want to start with that sentence. The false prophet finds joy in causing many to weep. They are constantly consuming food, but they have a starved soul. Scripture has a lot to say about the Godless rich man....

26 Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,

28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

~ The underworld is always the example of the Godlessness around modern religions. The malignancy of the Godless rich is absolutely deadly compared to the benign Godless poor. The reason is because the rich man glamorizes their Godlessness! It's attractive. There is more hypocrisy amongst the rich segment of religious society than there is amongst any other group. People love that - so, the false prophet will be paid very well in that church. Of course, the rich man owns the church and so he owns the prophet! If your church is rich there is absolutely no way it is an evangelical

church – that is an impossibility. The Gospel preacher will NOT be welcomed there. See, the genuine Gospel preacher condemns the rich and that has no other way of unfolding. James is going to really hurt some feelings when we get to his epistle again. The world isn't interested in some poor man teaching the Bible, friends – you can forget that.

Frankly, most people who tell me they follow Jesus wouldn't take one step in His footsteps. If they did, they would be in deep trouble in their life. If you actually read what Jesus says it will do more than remove the cloak of hypocrisy – this will peel your skin to the bone! If you learn your Bible properly, correctly and completely, then you're going to discover that the minister seeking popularity today dares not EVER mention sin. Most hook their victims with a psychoanalysis gyration that would frighten a trained military interrogation specialist. They erroneously explain away the exceeding sinfulness of sins - but it sounds good. Most people do not grasp how much God HATES sin! Jehovah is a man of war, friends! You cannot write your prescription for the philosophy of life and have it filled in the pleasures of false religion or in worldly things. Impossible....

29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloke forbid not to take thy coat also.

30 Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.

31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.

33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.

34 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

39 And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? Shall they not both fall into the ditch?

40 The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.

41 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

42 Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.

43 For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

44 For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart

bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:

48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

49 But he that heareth and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

~ ***Our Spiritual Safari*** concludes this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God having concluded the Sermon on the Plain the same way the Lord Jesus concluded the Sermon on the Mount back in the Book of Matthew. The house on the rock stood! The house built on shifting earth did not stand. Our conclusion today should reveal our sinful state. That is exactly what the unbelieving crowd is so deathly afraid of. The Lord Jesus gave all of this to reveal that we are sinners who need a Savior. We have a Rock that we can build on – and that Rock is Christ Jesus ~

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