

Study of Luke Ch. 5-6

Inside Out

Opening

Pray. *You start off with prayer. Ask for God to be in your conversation and to increase faith through this time.*

What is your idea of fun? Describe the best possible vacation you could take, no restrictions. How do you want to be remembered when you pass on?

What is more important to you? How people see you or that people know your heart? Why?

Study

As Jesus continues in His ministry, He begins to have challenges to the authority that He teaches with and the truth that He shares with others. These two accounts share help us to see that Jesus reiterates what is most important to God. The heart.

What disciplines of faith intrigue you? (Ex: fasting, silent retreat, memorizing scripture, abstaining, serving in secrecy, worship, prayer, sabbath living, etc.) What about them intrigue you? Which would you like to try?

Read Luke [5:33-6:5](#).

What do you find interesting about these accounts? What stands out to you as important? What questions do you have?

The Pharisees challenged Jesus on two disciplines of faith. What were the disciplines and what were they challenging Jesus about? ***The disciplines were fasting and “working” on the Sabbath. They believed all godly people did these things or even did them as part of your salvation. The attitude is that Jesus and His disciples were not good believers.***

Why do you think they cared whether the disciples practiced these disciplines? ***The Pharisees of Jesus time loved God’s piled with their laws more than they loved God.***

What is Jesus communicating to the Pharisees about these practices in the first section? ***There are right times and reasons to fast. The new and old comparisons are saying that new disciples don’t need to be burdened with the practices of more mature disciples.***

What is Jesus communicating to the Pharisees about these practices in the second section? ***God is the judge of the heart. He decides who is authentically obedient and who is not. Obeying a practice of faith does not equal salvation or faithfulness. The Pharisees liked to use these disciplines to make themselves look better than everyone else.***

What are some things we as Christians sometimes burden new Christians with? ***Anytime we take a practice of faith and put a quantity or quality to it, we burden new Christians instead of helping them to understand and learn these practices of faith. An example may be to teach one style of music is better than another in worship. Others could be how much one gives, or how long you fast, or how many times you pray.***

Mark of a Disciple: Values the heart of the matter

It's easy to get wrapped up into doing things for God. It's a noble thing to want to serve God in life, word, and action. Unfortunately, we like checklists and action items. We tend to turn tools that God gives us into a way of life. The problem with this is that we turn these tools into ways to earn salvation. Actions can become empty attempts to meet the minimum expectation. We see that with grades in school or the quality we put into a project. The truth is, God doesn't care about these tools as much as He does our salvation.

Hosea 6:5-6

Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

What does God value? What does God want these tools to accomplish in our life? ***God values your heart. These tools are to help us know God, draw closer to God, and love God.***

What spiritual discipline will you choose to practice this week? Who will you tell about this practice and the answer to these questions?

Ask these three questions each time:

1. What am I learning about who God is?
2. How can this draw me closer to God?
3. How does this foster love for God in me?

Prayer Time

Take prayer requests. Have everyone write them down so that each day you may pray for one another. Then, pray for each other before you close.

Are there any fears or concerns around the pandemic or recent events? Please be sensitive to each other and listen. Respond with encouragement from God's Word.