

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #16

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Passage: Luke 6:12-26

Sermon Date: Jan 1, 2006

Introduction:

After being hounded by the Pharisees, Jesus sneaks away to pray one night. In the morning, he chooses twelve followers who he appoints as 'apostles' and then begins to teach them and others. They expected him to establish some sort of traditional kingdom and become a powerful ruler. But his teaching starts to turn everything upside down. He warns those who are prospering by worldly standards, while promising blessings to those who are poor and hungry. Just what kind of kingdom is he building?

Read Luke 6:12-26 to see how Jesus begins to redefine prosperity, and study it to see how it applies to your life.

But first ...

... take a minute to ask God to open your eyes to his way of thinking, and to direct your thoughts to that which he has to teach you today.

This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/

*South Shore Baptist Church
578 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 749-2592*

Bible Study:

1. Read this week's bible passage and use the chart below to make observations and jot down any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>¹²One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.</p> <p>¹³When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: ¹⁴Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, ¹⁵Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, ¹⁶Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.</p> <p>¹⁷He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, ¹⁹and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.</p> <p>²⁰Looking at his disciples, he said:</p> <p>"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>²¹Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.</p> <p>Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.</p> <p>²²Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.</p> <p>²³"Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.</p> <p>²⁴"But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.</p> <p>²⁵Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry.</p> <p>Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.</p> <p>²⁶Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.</p>	
<p>2. Parallel Passages: The parallel texts for this week's passage are less evident than previous ones. Luke 6:12-16 parallels, at least to some extent, Matthew 10:1-4 and Mark 3:13-19. Then there is debate about whether the 'Sermon on the Mount', depicted in Matthew 5-7, especially the first part, Matthew 5:1-12, is the same event as in Luke 6:17-26. What similarities and differences do you see in these two sermons?</p>	

3. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

4. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

5. Jesus gave twelve of his followers the title “apostle.” What does the word “apostle” mean?

a. Traditional dictionary meaning:

b. Biblical meaning:

To find biblical meanings, try a Concordance, Bible Dictionary, or Study Bible. If you don't have such books available, try going on the Internet to **www.bible.org** [select “study tools” then “dictionaries” then look up the word “apostle” in a few of the Bible dictionaries listed].

c. In addition to the twelve listed in this Luke passage, who else is considered an apostle in the Bible? Are there apostles today? (See Heb 3:1, Rom 1:1, Gal 1:19, Acts 14:4, Eph 4:11, 1 Cor 12:28-29)

6. Why do you think the poor, hungry, weeping, rejected ones are blessed while the rich, well fed, laughing, admired ones are warned? What tends to cause the latter group to lose their heavenly blessings? (Consider Deut 8:17-18, Luke 8:14, 12:21, 34)

7. This week's passage echoes themes from the Old Testament.

a. How were the poor and weak regarded by God in the Old Testament? (See Psalm 14:4-7, 22:24-26, 34:6, 40:17)

b. How were the rich and powerful regarded in the Old Testament? (See Psalm 10, 37:14-15, Isaiah 3:14-15, 10:1-3)

c. Recall Jesus' mission (See Isaiah 61:1-3, Luke 4:17-21). How does this mission correlate with his words of encouragement and warning in Luke 6:17-26?

8. What do you see as Jesus main message in this passage?

a. To his followers?

b. To his skeptics in the crowd?

c. To you today?

d. How will you respond? What do you sense God wants you to do or to be this week and this year based on what you have learned and heard in this Bible study?