

Outline for February 19, 2012 (Luke 6:1-11) - "Follow Me"

Introduction: Following Jesus is going hard after the Lord and following in the example that He left for us. The life of a disciple is the process of sanctification lived out on a daily basis. This process takes place over a lifetime and embraces the work of the Holy Spirit in us to conform us to the image of Christ. This process is messy, at times most difficult, heartbreaking as wrestle with our own sin and the sin of others, and yet always satisfying as we look to Christ.

I. Luke's preface and the introduction of John the Baptist and Jesus (1:1-2:52)

II. Preparation for Ministry: the supremacy of God in the fullness of time (3:1-4:13)

III. The Galilean Ministry (4:14-9:50)

A. Summary of the Galilean ministry (4:14-15)

B. Preaching in Nazareth (4:16-30)

C. The necessity of preaching the good news of the kingdom of God (4:31-44)

D. Gathering of disciples (5:1-6:16)

1. The remarkable providence of God (5:1, 12, 17)

2. The miraculous catch of fish and Peter (5:1-11)

3. The sovereignty, authority and mercy of King Jesus (5:12-16)

4. An amazing confrontation (5:16-17)

5. "We have seen extraordinary (strange) things today (5:18-26)

6. Levi the tax collector (5:27-32)

7. A question about fasting (5:33-39)

a. Following Jesus is not about rules and regulations

b. Following Jesus is not about add-ons – we don't add Jesus to our lifestyle as an insurance policy

c. Following Jesus is not about retaining the old, tired, worn-out ways of cultural religion, trying to make ourselves better, but about the fresh, fiery, new relation with Christ borne out of His death and resurrection

d. Following Jesus is not about legalism, i.e. religious performance or works righteousness (6:1-5)

1) The issue of legalism

- What it is – any attempt to gain favor with God through our own goodness, achievements or self-righteousness and condemning others based on our own self-imposed standards
- What it looks like – the narrative of Luke 6:1-11
 - Legalism stifles worship
 - Legalism stirs up resentment and envy
 - Legalism stifles the gospel

2) The purpose of the Sabbath (Mark 2:27)

- To rest from one's work
- Devout meditation upon the works of God, especially redemption – enjoying God, lost in the wonder of His greatness and majesty
- Public worship – hearing the Word of God

3) The Lord of the Sabbath (Matthew 12:1-8)

- "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath"
- Jesus is greater than the Temple
- He is the Lord of heaven and earth
- He is the Lord of Sabbath rest (Hebrews 4:9-10)

4) The grace of rest (Matthew 11:25f)

- Our Sabbath in Christ is to be filled with awe and fear
- "Come unto Me" – the great invitation for rest and adoration
- "Take My yoke" – an imperative of grace

- “learn from Me” – pursue Christ with great passion