

Bible Study Luke 6:12-26

1. Is eternal life a “free gift”? Or is it more accurate to say, “following Jesus costs you everything”? Discuss.

There's truth in both statements! We cannot ever repay our debt to God – forgiveness is his free gift – at the immeasurable cost of his Son's death. But to follow Jesus we must take up our cross daily – die to self. It costs us our self-rule.

2. **Read Luke 6:1-11.** So far in Luke's Gospel Jesus has received popular acceptance, except in his home town (4:28-30). But now the religious leaders have come to a decision – v11. Since Jesus knows the thoughts of people, what might you expect him to do?

Perhaps withdraw, or even take them on in open debate.

3. **Read Luke 6:12-16.** What things do we learn from v.12?

Jesus responded to the threat by showing his trust in God the Father (reminding us of Daniel's response to his enemies in Dan 6). We learn that Jesus prayed – and made the time and place to do it amidst other pressures. If nothing else this is a profound example for us to follow. He also embarks on a wider stage of his mission – choosing the 12 – and does this after considered prayer.

4. **Read Luke 6:17-26.** What can you say about the people who were coming to Jesus and his attitude to them?

*A wide range of people, from many places, coming to hear as well as touch/be healed. Jesus received them all, obviously healed (had compassion), and most importantly, **spoke** to all – words that would encourage some and warn others.*

5. Vv20-13; “blessed” here means approved or favoured by God. Does this mean that God favours all people who are socially and financially underprivileged? Explain.

No. The 'poor' have no say in their condition, and would change it if they could! It is no more virtuous to be poor than it is sinful to be wealthy – in fact, both conditions have inherent risks for God's people – see Prov 30:8b-9. Verse 22 shows that these people are in hardship because of their relationship to Jesus. This is a description of the disciple, not a class of poor in general.

Read Ex 22:21-24; Deut 15:7-11, 24:14-15; Ps 40:15-17

The “poor” in the Old Testament are often those who have no where else to turn but the Lord. Their need focuses their mind on the reality that God alone provides. And so they trust him.

6. Compare the two groups by listing what they have “now” and what they will have in future.

“blessed are you”		“woe to you”	
have now	will have	have now	will have
God's favour		Woe (how terrible!)	
'poverty'		wealth/comfort	no comfort
God's kingdom			
Hunger	satisfaction	well fed	hunger
Tears	laughter	laughter	mourning/weeping
Rejection for Jesus' sake		popular acceptance (fate of false prophets)	
Rejoicing (a command now)			

*Notice that the rejoicing and possession of the Kingdom of God are **present** realities.*

7. Consider the following quote by C.S. Lewis and discuss your thoughts.

“If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”

8. What helps you to find your satisfaction in the Lord and not in merely physical and immediate appetites?