

FULFILLED

Study 5 - Luke 5:33-6:49

1. Last week, we saw snapshots that pointed to the presence of God's kingdom. What evidence did Luke present to help us see this?
2. Look back at the incident with Levi in 5:27-32. Why did the religious leaders react the way they did? How does the kingdom that Jesus brings seem to clash with their ideas about the kingdom of God?
3. What sense do you make of Jesus' response to the question about fasting? What point is he making with his two illustrations?
4. Have you ever fasted as part of your spiritual disciplines? If so, share your experiences with the group.
5. According to Jesus, when is the wrong time to fast? When is it the right time? How does this help us understand one of the purposes of fasting?
6. How does Jesus respond to the accusation that his disciples have broken the Sabbath?
7. What does he say about the Sabbath and about himself? How does this relate to what he said about fasting?

8. If a friend insisted that Christians should keep the Sabbath, how would you respond to them in light of Jesus' teaching here?

9. Read 6:12-16. What is the significance of this moment? How does it relate to what has come so far in the broader section? (Hint: think back to how Luke has shown Jesus to be the true Adam and true Israelite.)

10. Read 6:17-42. How is Luke continuing to show us the formation of a new kingdom and a new people of God?

11. In 6:20-26, what clues are there to help us understand who Jesus really has in mind with his pronouncement blessings and woes?

12. What is this new kingdom like? List some of the some of the values of this kingdom. Which of these do you find most shocking? Which do you find most appealing?

13. Why does Jesus call us to stand so radically apart from the world? Where are we in danger of being more like the kingdom of this world than Christ's kingdom?

14. Read 6:43-49. How does Jesus make clear that we can't fake entry into his kingdom? What is the key to genuine heart change and producing good fruit?