



# Counter Culture

Swimming Upstream with Jesus in Luke 6

## **Luke Study 6**

# **Unfairly Accused**

**Luke 5:33-6:26**

### **Introduction**

There's no doubt about it – Jesus is a trouble-maker! Already, at the end of chapter 5, we've seen him making waves. Men from his town have tried to throw him over a cliff, all because he suggested that Israel wasn't guaranteed to be blessed by God! He irritated the experts by claiming to forgive sins, and his disciples are accused of partying instead of fasting and praying. And it's about to get worse...

### **Discuss**

Have you ever been unfairly accused of something? How did it feel?

### **Jesus in the Firing Line – Fast Breaker**

#### **Read Luke 5:33-39 (which we covered briefly last time.)**

1. Why do the Pharisees criticise Jesus (v33)? What's the contrast?
2. What reply does Jesus give (v34)? What's he talking about?
3. What do verses 36-38 say the real issue is?
4. "No one pours new wine into old wineskins! If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out, and the wineskins will be ruined..." (v37). How does this statement relate to what's happening in the story of Israel?

### **Going against the Grain...**

Read Luke 6:1-5

5. What are the Pharisees unhappy about this time (v1-2)?
  
6. What precedent has King David already established (v3-4 and 1 Sam 21:1-7)? Why does that make these actions OK for Jesus as God's true eternal King?
  
7. What is Jesus saying about his authority when he says that he is 'Lord of the Sabbath' (v5)?

### **Think it over...**

8. God gave Israel the "Sabbath Day" as a day of rest from their labours. Whose benefit do you think this was for? How have the Pharisees misunderstood the intentions of the Sabbath?

Read Luke 6:6-11 to see the same point more clearly.

9. It's another Sabbath day. How do the Pharisees treat Jesus now? (v7)
  
10. What does Jesus ask them (v9)? Which do you think God's Law would allow?
  
11. What does Jesus do, and how do the Pharisees react? Is this fair?

12. When you see the Pharisee's plans in verse 11, and think about the question Jesus asked in verse 9, who is really being the 'lawful' one here?

Jesus doesn't fast, he lets his disciples pick grain on the Sabbath, and he even heals in the synagogue on the Sabbath! There's a whole 'new order' under the lordship of the 'Son of Man'- but be careful! The old wineskins are about to explode! The Pharisees and teachers of the law are (unfairly) looking for a reason to accuse him, and are (even more unfairly) already plotting to kill him.

### **The Cost of Discipleship**

If you've ever felt that it 'just wasn't fair' – Jesus knows exactly what it's like! If you've ever been treated badly because you've done the right thing – Jesus knows exactly what it's like. In fact, when he chose his first disciples (v12-16), the first thing he did was to warn them about what it was going to be like.

Read verses 12-26.

13. Compare the 'blessings' (v20-22) with the 'woes' (v23-26). Can you arrange them in pairs?

14. What does Jesus promise about the LATER BENEFITS that will come to those who join him in the face of HARSHIPS NOW?

15. Write out verse 22 and verse 26 so you can easily see the contrast:

*v 22-23 Blessed are you when*

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*because that's how their  
fathers*

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*v 26 Woe to you when*

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*because that's how their fathers*

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16. The way Jesus and the apostles are treated by the leaders of Israel will be an indication of something important. What?

### **Conclusion**

What comfort can you draw from knowing that Jesus and his first followers were treated like this? How can we help one another not to be drawn into the options that lead to 'woe'?

### **News and Information**

Preaching this week – Professor Allan Millard, Biblical Archaeologist