



Week of May 2, 2021

Lessons in Luke: No More Escalator Theology

Luke 6:17-19

Day One: Read Luke 6:17-19

¹⁷ When Jesus and his disciples came down from the mountain, the disciples stood with Jesus on a large, level area, surrounded by many of his followers and by the crowds. There were people from all over Judea and from Jerusalem and from as far north as the seacoasts of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear Jesus and to be healed of their diseases; and those troubled by evil spirits were healed. ¹⁹ Everyone tried to touch him, because healing power went out from him, and he healed everyone.

- Read the entire passage and notice what stands out for you. What seems significant to you after you read this? Location seems to be important for the Gospel writers. Significant moments in the story of God's activity usually happened on high, elevated places. Can you think of any examples? (See Genesis 8:1-5; Exodus 19:20, 24; Luke 22:39-49; Matthew 4:8; 5:1-2; Mark 9:2-8.) In Luke's version of The Sermon on the Mount, Jesus comes down off the mountain and gathers with people "on a large, level place." What do you think that signifies?

Day Two: Read Luke 6:17

¹⁷ When Jesus and his disciples came down from the mountain, the disciples stood with Jesus on a large, level area, surrounded by many of his followers and by the crowds. There were people from all over Judea and from Jerusalem and from as far north as the seacoasts of Tyre and Sidon.

- Luke mentions where the people have come from: Judea, Jerusalem, and as far away as Tyre and Sidon. That is no short distance. Why have these people come to see Jesus and hear him? How does Jesus meet the needs of the people?

Day Three: Read Luke 6:18

¹⁸ They had come to hear Jesus and to be healed of their diseases; and those troubled by evil spirits were healed.

- The people that came to Jesus longed for many things. Why do you think they wanted to touch him? Some believe that a good amount of superstition was at work here. Would you say that God has touched you in some way? If so, how would you describe what happened?

Day Four: Read Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."

- The passage from Luke 6 that we've been dwelling in this week tells us a lot about God's movement toward us. Of these two versions: Humankind seeking God or God seeking humankind, which one was more prevalent in your spiritual formation?

Day Five: Read Matthew 18:12

¹² "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost?"

- How would you convey the meaning of this verse to a child? Put in its essential form, what is this verse communicating? How is this verse alike or different than Luke 6:17? How would you describe that?