



# **GOSPEL OF SAINT LUKE**

## **14 – The Lord of the Sabbath**





# RECAP FROM LECTURE 13



1. Miraculous draught of fish → Don't gaze at the fish! Gaze at the divine fisherman
2. The Calling of Peter the Galilean → Restoration starts in Galilee
3. The Healing of the Leper → Restoration is not of a political order → It is anthropological
4. Communion of the Saints → Necessity of the communion of the saints in the salvific mission of the Church.
5. First controversy – power to forgive → Who is Christ? A 300-year controversy!
6. The calling of Levi → Gratitude is a wonderful response to God's gift
7. Second controversy – eating with sinners → Forbearance for those who do not understand
8. Third controversy – on fasting → Envy turns all good to evil
9. First Parable → In answer to Envy: So that they may not understand





## **PLAN OF THIS STUDY**

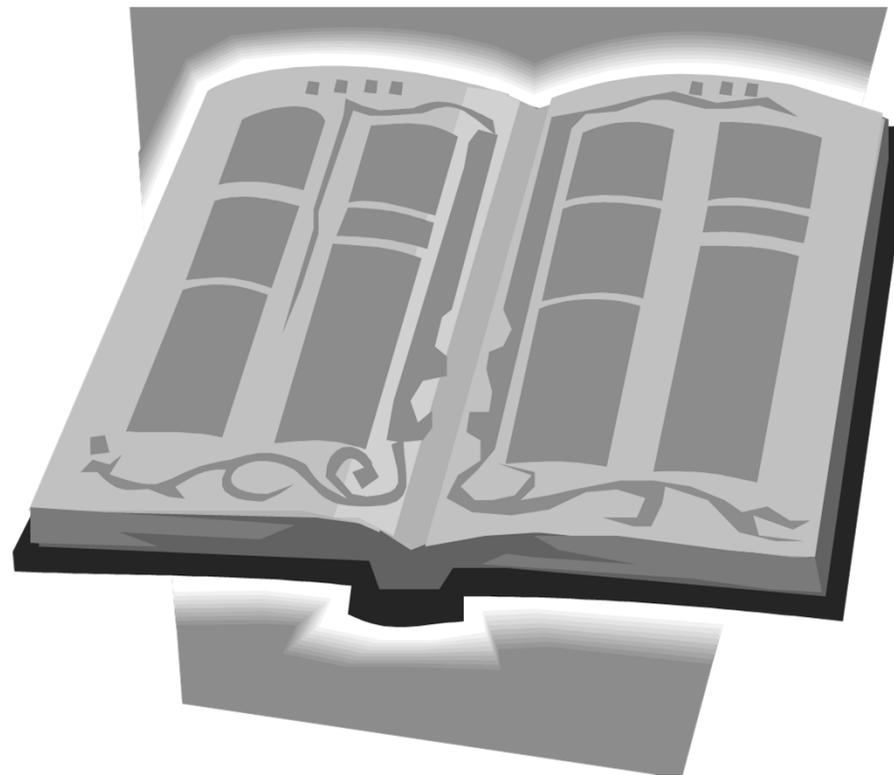


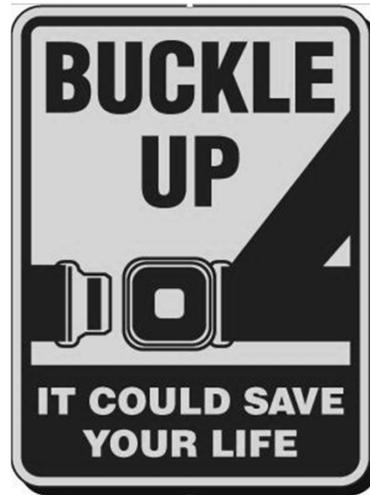
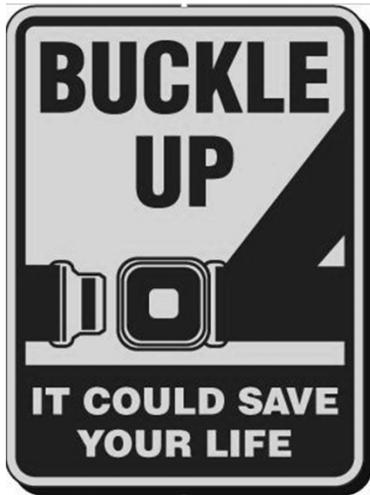
- 1. The Lord of the Sabbath [1-5]**
- 2. The Man with a withered hand [6-11]**
- 3. Choosing his Apostles [12 – 15]**





# OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO LUKE 6:1 - 15







## **LUKE 6:1-5 – THE LORD OF THE SABBATH**



- 1 On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grain fields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands.
- 2 But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?"
- 3 And Jesus answered, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him:  
4 how he entered the house of God, and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?"
- 5 And he said to them, "The Son of man is lord of the Sabbath."





# LUKE 6:1-5 – THE LORD OF THE SABBATH / 1



- † The Law of the Sabbath was given in Leviticus and Deuteronomy. The Sabbath is a day of rest from toil and rejoicing – it is a day when the curse of Adam is suspended.
- † At the time of Jesus, “rest from toil” became an intolerable burden. Exaggeration ran rife. Some Rabbis holding that even the tortures of Gehenna were suspended during the Sabbath or if a man kept two Sabbath perfectly, salvation was assured. The Mishna (A.D. 200) taught that desecration of the Sabbath was a crime deserving death.
- † The objection made to Our Lord is that plucking is like reaping.
- † Plucking from a neighbor’s field was permitted by Deuteronomy 23:26
- † Exodus 34:21 enjoins the Sabbath-rest even at harvesttime.
- † To ensure respect for its observance, Pharisaic tradition built a fence for it by explaining “plucking” as a form of proscribed “reaping”.





## LUKE 6:1-5 – THE LORD OF THE SABBATH / 2



- † “The Presentation bread,” were a weekly offering made to the Lord on a special table within the temple and renewed every week when the bread is eaten by “Aaron and his sons” (Exod. 25:30, 35:13, 39:36; 40:23)
- † Ahimelek and Abiathar. See Mark 2:23-28 and 1 Samuel 21:6 ff.
- † Ahimelek, the priest at Nob, having no other bread to offer David and his men, gave them to eat the “holy bread,” once he had learned that they had kept themselves from women.
- † The Lord answers thus: When the observance of the positive law is harmful to the community it is right to (temporarily) dispense with it.
- † The Lord affirms his divinity for only God is the giver of the Law.
- † The Lord is the Lord of the Covenant and Jesus is restoring the covenant and renewing it → Points to the Eucharist as the greatest of miracles
- † To his Power (4:14,36, 5:17) and his Authority (4:32,36; 5:24) is now added Lordship. He is Lord precisely as the Son of Man





## LUKE 6:1-5 – THE LORD OF THE SABBATH / 3



- † Even the Sabbath which is of divine origin must yield to other considerations:  
corporate act of mercy.
- † Compare to
  - † **Prohibition from making graven images:** 4 "You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;
  - † **Calling no man "father"** in Matthew 23:8-9 – "8 But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. 9 And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven."
- † Observance of the Sabbath is seen as the royal pathway to holiness.
- † Later Pharisaic tradition knew of exception that could be made to the Sabbath-Rest (Str-B 1.622-629 in *The Gospel According to Luke, Fitzmeyer, Vol 1, p. 607*):  
"Whenever there is a doubt whether life is in danger, this overrides the Sabbath."





## **LUKE 6:6-11 – THE MAN WITH A WITHERED HAND**



6 On another Sabbath, when he entered the synagogue and taught, a man was there whose right hand was withered.

7 And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him.

8 But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come and stand here." And he rose and stood there.

9 And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?"

10 And he looked around on them all, and said to him, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored.

11 But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.





## LUKE 6:6-11 – THE MAN WITH A WITHERED HAND



- † The man's right hand was withered. Presumably, he was unable to perform any task properly.
- † Jesus asks the man to stretch his hand. We have to do our part.
- † "It is allowed to do good..." Implied in the question is that not to do good is not neutral by evil and no one is allowed to do evil on the Sabbath.
- † It is never permitted to do evil on the Sabbath because it is never permitted to do evil. So why does Jesus put the question to them? Because of the *work* they will do in a little while.
- † Is every good permitted on the Sabbath? No. Some good is prohibited by the Law God gave them but the positive law was never meant to stand in the way of charity.
- † Our Lord manifests supernatural power by reading thoughts.
- † "Filled with fury": Besides themselves in madness
- † Jesus teaches with authority for what he teaches, he is able to accomplish in the hearts of his disciples
- † Hebrews 3 verse 7 and following: The Day of Rest.





## **LUKE 6:12-16 – DISCIPLES AND APOSTLES**



12 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to God.

13 And when it was day, he called his disciples, and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles;

14 Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew,

15 and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot,

16 and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.





# LUKE 6:12-16 – DISCIPLES AND APOSTLES / 1



- † Difference between disciples and apostles.
- † Christ is restoring Israel: He renders the Sabbath “operative” It is a day of rest from our toil.
- † He chooses twelve apostles as his “emissaries” those whom he will send.
- † Criteria of an apostle in the New Testament:
  - † A witness of the Risen Christ (1 Cor 9:1, and
  - † A Commission by Jesus to preach the Good News (Gal. 1:15-16)
- † Saint Luke in Acts adds that an Apostle is
  - † “a witness to his resurrection” (think Saint Paul) Acts 1:22, that is someone sent to witness of Christ’s Resurrection
  - † He must be a man
  - † He must have accompanied the Eleven during the whole time that the Lord moved in and out among them (1:22).
- † The Catholic Church is Apostolic: Every Bishop is ordained by someone who traces back to the twelve apostles. So is the Orthodox Church.





## LUKE 6:12-16 – DISCIPLES AND APOSTLES / 2



1. Simon, the one called “Peter”: consistently mentioned first in all four known lists of the apostles (Mark 3:16-19, Luke 6:12-16, Acts 1:13, Matthew 10:2-4). Crucified upside down in Rome circa 66 A.D.
2. Andrew: *Andreas – Manly*: He is Simon’s brother from Baithsaida. First to be called amongst the disciples. A patron saint of Ukraine, Romania and Russia, according to tradition, **he founded the See of Byzantium** (Constantinople) in AD 38. He was crucified in Patras, ~150 miles west of Athens
3. James (the Great): Founder of the Sea of Jerusalem. Martyred at the hands of Herod Antipos (Acts 12:1-2) in AD 44. According to tradition, he is buried in Santiago De Compostela. He is the Patron Saint of Spain.
4. John: Brother of James. Author of the 4<sup>th</sup> Gospel and of the Book of Revelation. He was exiled to the Isle of Patmos and died in Ephesus.
5. Philip: *Philippos*, “Lover of Horses”, was a Greek name often used by Jews, ever since the Seleucid period. He is from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. He preached in Greece, Syria and Phrygia.





## LUKE 6:12-16 – DISCIPLES AND APOSTLES / 3



6. Bartholomew: Bartholomaios, a Grecized form of Aramaic Bar Tolmai (2 Sam 3:3) He is identified with Nathanel (John 21:2). His feast is June 11 in Eastern Christianity, and August 24 in both forms of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church. Eusebius of Caesarea's *Ecclesiastical History* (5:10) states that after the Ascension, Bartholomew went on a missionary tour to India, where he left behind a copy of the Gospel of Matthew. Other traditions record him as serving as a missionary in Ethiopia, Mesopotamia, Parthia, and Lyconia. Along with his fellow apostle Jude Thaddeus, Bartholomew is reputed to have brought Christianity to Armenia in the 1st century. Thus, both saints are considered the patron saints of the Armenian Apostolic Church. He is said to have been martyred in Albanopolis in Armenia.
7. Matthew: Levi son of Alpheus, a tax-collector who was called by the Lord. He is the author of the second Gospel. Matta-yah: Hebrew form of “Gift of Yahweh”. First-Century Palestinian Jews often had two names, one Semitic (Hebrew or Aramaic) and the other in a Greek or Latin form (Acts 1:23; 12:25; 13:9).





## LUKE 6:12-16 – DISCIPLES AND APOSTLES / 4



8. Thomas: from the Aramaic “the twin”. In John 11:16, 20:24 – ho legomenos Didymos (Who was called Didymus; Greek word for “twin”). Traditionally, he is said to have traveled outside the Roman Empire to preach the Gospel, traveling as far as India. According to tradition, the Apostle reached Muziris, India in 52 AD and baptized several people who are today known as Saint Thomas Christians or Nasranis.

After his death, the reputed relics of Saint Thomas the Apostle were enshrined as far as Mesopotamia in the 3rd century, and later moved to various places. In 1258, some of the relics were brought to Abruzzo in Ortona, Italy, where they have been held in the Church of Saint Thomas the Apostle.

He is often regarded as the Patron Saint of India, and the name Thomas remains quite popular among Saint Thomas Christians of India.





## LUKE 6:12-16 – DISCIPLES AND APOSTLES / 4



9. James Son of Alphaeus: James, son of Alphaeus is often identified with James the Less, who is only mentioned three times in the Bible, each time in connection with his mother. Mark 15:40 refers to "Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses", while Mark 16:1 and Matthew 27:56 refer to "Mary the mother of James".

Since there was already another James (James, son of Zebedee) among the twelve apostles, equating James son of Alphaeus with "James the Less" made sense. (James son of Zebedee was sometimes called "James the Greater").

Tradition maintains he was crucified at Ostrakine in Lower Egypt, where he was preaching the Gospel





## **LUKE 6:12-16 – DISCIPLES AND APOSTLES / 4**



10. Simon, surnamed The Zealot: A label for individual Jews who opposed the Roman occupation of their country. In later tradition, Simon is often associated with St. Jude as an evangelizing team; in Western Christianity, they share their feast day on 28 October. The most widespread tradition is that after evangelizing in Egypt, Simon joined Jude in Persia and Armenia or Beirut, Lebanon, where both were martyred in 65 AD. This version is the one found in the Golden Legend.
  
11. Judas, son of James – often called Jude, to distinguish him from the Judas who betrayed the Lord. Tradition holds that Saint Jude preached the Gospel in Judea, Samaria, Idumaea, Syria, Mesopotamia and Libya. He is also said to have visited Beirut and Edessa, Although Saint Gregory the Illuminator is credited as the "Apostle to the Armenians", when he baptized King Tiridates III of Armenia in 301, converting the Armenians, the Apostles Jude and Bartholomew are traditionally believed to have been the first to bring Christianity to Armenia, and are therefore venerated as the patron saints of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Linked to this tradition is the Saint Thaddeus Monastery (now in northern Iran) and Saint Bartholomew Monastery (now in southeastern Turkey) which were both constructed in what was then Armenia.





## LUKE 6:12-16 – DISCIPLES AND APOSTLES / 5



12. Judas, son of Simon Iscariot – Ish Keriyyot (a man from Keriyyoth). Though there are varied accounts of his death, the traditional version sees him as having hanged himself out of remorse following his betrayal. His place among the Twelve Apostles was later filled by Matthias. He was the first apostle to die, and the only apostle not to achieve sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church. Tradition holds he and John are the only apostles not to die a martyr's death.





## LET'S RECAP



1. The Lord asserts his authority over the Sabbath
2. He does what he says
3. He appoints his apostles





## FOR NEXT WEEK

† Read Luke chapter 6:17-49 and chapter 7

† Points of meditation

† Do you see the structure of the Church in the verses of chapter 6?

† To which group of disciples does the centurion belong?

† Why did Jesus raise the dead son of the widow?

† What the disciples of John looking for?

† Why does the Lord compare this generation to children?

† Why did Jesus forgive the woman?

