

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

Conflict and New Wine

Luke 5: 12 - 6:11

In the section of Luke's Gospel beginning in 5:12 and going through 6:11 the recurring theme is conflict with the religious leaders of the day, particularly the Pharisee and teachers of the Law. Most of the conflict has to do with the Sabbath regulations, but also strike at the heart of Who Jesus is. In the middle of this passage are parables/proverbs about new patches on old garments and new wine in old wineskins. These analogies are intended to highlight the new paradigm of God's Kingdom, or life in the Holy Spirit vs life under the Law. The passage is key to understanding how the old differs from the new and how crucial for us to live by the Holy Spirit.

I. Points of Conflict

- A. 5:20: forgiveness of sin
- B. 5:24: demonstrates His authority making Him equal to God
- C. 5:27: includes a tax collector in His group of disciples
- D. 5:30: shares a meal and has fellowship with tax collectors
- E. 5:33: Pharisees complain about Jesus' followers not being religious
- F. 6:1-2: Picking the heads of grain on the Sabbath
- G. 6:10: Healing the man with the withered hand

II. Jesus and the Law; Purpose of the Sabbath

- A. 5:13-14: Jesus "touches" the leper but commands him to go first to the priest
- B. 6:1-5: Picking the grain, the story of David & the Bread of the Presence (I Sam 21:1-6), Son of MAN is Lord of the Sabbath
- C. 6:6-11: Jesus heals the withered hand and directly provokes the Pharisees

III. New Wine and Old Wineskins

- A. Jesus flagrantly, but not purposelessly, violates the regulations of the Sabbath day. Some of the instances are rules added by the religious leaders, some appear to be actual violations of the Levitical Law. As the Pharisees mount their objections, Jesus appears to be more intentional in His provocation.
- B. How does this behavior fit with His declared purpose that He had come not to abolish the Law but to fulfill it? (Matt 5:17-19)
 - 1. Consider the context and the moral law vs the ceremonial law
 - 2. This distinction is from a Christian era / Gentile perspective
 - a. The Jews would never had made such a distinction
 - b. The issue reverts to Holy Spirit guidance
 - 3. Jesus IS the fulfillment of the Law in His Person in perfect obedience to the Father by the Holy Spirit in every instance
- C. This gives rise to the proverbs about patching old garments and storing new wine. Life in and by the power of the Holy Spirit is incompatible with life lived by the rule of law. The Law was a yoke which neither the Pharisees nor the people could bear (Acts 15:5-11). Jesus is demonstrating the life under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

While He was in one of the cities, behold, there was a man covered with leprosy; and when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and implored Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." And He stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately the leprosy left him. And He ordered him to tell no one, "But go and show yourself to the priest and make an offering for your cleansing, just as Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." But the news about Him was spreading even farther, and large crowds were gathering to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray. One day He was teaching; and there were some Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing. And some men were carrying on a bed a man who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in and to set him down in front of Him. But not finding any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." The scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?" But Jesus, aware of their reasonings, answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins have been forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,"—He said to the paralytic "I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher and go

