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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What is the principle point about the new wine in old wineskins?
- 2. What is the relationship of a believer to the Old Testament Law?
- 3. Paul says the Law is good if one use it lawfully (I Tim 1:3-11). In the in the tax booth, and He said to him, "Follow Me." And context of his statement, what is the lawful use of the Law? he left everything behind, and got up and began to
- 4. Does it surprise you that Jesus intentionally provokes conflict? Explain your answer. When is it appropriate to provoke religious conflict?
- 5. Think like a Pharisee... What is their real issue? Why are they so upset with Jesus' actions? What is their goal?
- 6. Could Jesus have waited until the end of the Sabbath to heal the man with the withered hand? Why do you suppose He called him out in the middle of Sabbath worship to heal his hand?

NOTES

home." Immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. They were all struck with astonishment and began glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen remarkable things today." After that He went out and noticed a tax collector named Levi sitting he left everything behind, and got up and began to follow Him. And Levi gave a big reception for Him in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and other people who were reclining at the table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes began grumbling at His disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?" And Jesus answered and said to them, "It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." And they said to Him, "The disciples of John often fast and offer prayers, the disciples of the Pharisees also do the same, but Yours eat and drink." And Jesus said to them, "You cannot make the attendants of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you? But the days will come; and when the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast in those days." And He was also telling them a parable: "No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and puts it on an old garment; otherwise he will both tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one, after drinking old wine wishes for new; for he says, 'The old is good enough." Now it happened that He was passing through some grainfields on a Sabbath; and His disciples were picking the heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands, and eating the grain. But some of the Pharisees said, "Why do you do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" And Jesus answering them said, "Have you not even read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him, how he entered the house of God, and took and ate the consecrated bread which is not lawful for any to eat except the priests alone, and gave it to his companions?" And He was saying to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath." On another Sabbath He entered the synagogue and was teaching; and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. The scribes and the Pharisees were watching Him closely to see if He healed on the Sabbath, so that they might find reason to accuse Him. But He knew what they were thinking, and He said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!" And he got up and came forward. And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to destroy it?" After looking around at them all, He said to him, "Stretch out your hand!" And he did so; and his hand was restored. But they themselves were filled with rage, and discussed together what they might do to Jesus.

Luke 5:12-6:11(NASB)

