



# **STORIES OF LIFE!**

**The Gospel of Luke**

## **The Story of the Blessed Chosen**

**Luke 6:12-26**

**Message #19 of 50 – S795**

**Sermon given on June 10, 2018**



**Sunday Morning Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# The Story of the Blessed Chosen

**Luke 6:12-26**

## Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 6**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- Some of you might remember a time in your life, as a child, when teams were being picked to play a game
- Some of you might not know what it feels like to not be picked first, second, or third
- And I hope that few of you know what it feels like to be the last person chosen
- If you are here or are watching this today and you are a Christian, you were chosen by God
- You didn't choose Him, He chose you, because He loves you **1 John 4:10**

**In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

- When we think of being chosen by God, we often focus on salvation, but in our text today we see there are other times that God chooses us
- And we will see four traits that God is looking for in those He chooses to use for His purposes
- In the OT book of Isaiah God asked if there was anyone available to do a special work for Him
- Isaiah responded, 'Here am I, Lord. Send me!'
- I want to live with my hand raised, ready to be used by God for His glory, for the blessing of others, and the growth of my faith
- Develop these four traits and you will be ready to be used by God for great and glorious things
- And you will experience blessings that few people in this world will ever know
- **Pray**

## Teaching

- **The Story of the Blessed Chosen**

- Our text begins with Jesus choosing who He is going to use first
- **Luke 6:12-16**
- This was an enormous decision, and so, He separated Himself from all the distractions of life, so He could speak to his Father about it
- This decision did not come easily to Jesus – He continued all night
- I imagine Jesus lifting up every person who had committed to be His disciple before the Father and talking to Him about them
- We must keep in mind that Jesus, as a Man, was not omniscient – He didn't know everything – only what God revealed to Him through the Holy Spirit **Philippians 2:5-7**

**Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.**

- This is a very humbling truth to me
- Jesus, sinless Man, God in the flesh, needed time alone with God to make important decisions
- How much more do I need to find time alone with God for the decisions of my life?
- Some of these guys like Peter, John, and Judas we know a lot about
- Others, like Simon the Zealot and the other Judas we know very little
- But the sense from what we do know about them is that they were ordinary men
- That is encouraging to me – God uses ordinary men and women to do the extraordinary
- Never think for a moment that you are too common or ordinary to be used by God
- The question is not if God can use you, it is will you make yourself available to God to be used by Him
- Out of the hundreds following Him, He chose twelve
- After praying all night, Jesus' work is not done
- **Luke 6:17-19**
- 'multitudes' = thousands of people – many of them, either dealing with things that needed healing or were with people who needed healing
- And they were healed – all of them
- Jesus had the power – they added their faith – and healing occurred

- God still heals – but not in the same way – and not all the time
- Remember, everyone that Jesus healed eventually got sick again and died
- Our true healing takes place when Jesus gives us the new bodies of eternity
- Starting in verse 20 to the end of the chapter is Luke’s record of what Jesus taught on this occasion
- Many try to suggest that this is the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5 – probably not – some similarities, but enough differences so that it makes better sense that it is a different sermon
- We are going to look at verses 20 to 26, rest of the chapter next week
- We will see four beatitudes (blessings) and four woes (warnings)
- For each of the beatitudes, there is a corresponding woe
- Before we get into them, let’s see who they are addressed to
- **Luke 6:20a**
- This seems to be directed to His disciples – not to the multitudes
- The multitude was there and could benefit from this teaching, but it was primarily for those who had made a more significant commitment to Christ
- We’ll read all the beatitudes and woes together, and then go back and look at them individually
- **Luke 6:20-26**
- Four beatitudes and four woes – describe four traits of a disciple
- These four traits are what God is looking for in those He chooses to use
- Not that they are perfected, but that they are present and being developed
- First trait of the blessed chosen disciple – **Poor**
- **Luke 6:20, 24**
- This is not suggesting that poverty is a blessing – it is not
- What Jesus is saying is that if you are going to be one of His disciples you are going to have a different attitude toward material possessions
- Not only that, but it will end up costing you something to follow Christ

- This week an executive with Crossfit was fired for publicly expressing his faith
  - A disciple seeks the will of God, no matter what it costs
  - The rich (or those wishing to be rich) seek wealth, no matter the cost
  - The poor have always been more open to the gospel than the rich
  - The promise for those who seek the Lord no matter what, is the kingdom of God – whatever we might lack in this world, we will have a thousand times over in God’s kingdom
  - Some characteristics of this trait are; modesty, generosity, humility
  - To be used by God we must want to do God’s will, no matter the cost
  - The second trait of the blessed chosen – **Hungry**
  - **Luke 6:21a, 25a**
  - A disciple of Christ is hungry – while there can be a spiritual context, that is not what Jesus is saying here
  - Jesus is talking about living a life of self-denial
  - The more you are looking for satisfaction from anyone or anything in this life, the less you are a disciple of Jesus Christ **Galatians 6:8**
- For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.**
- A disciple of Christ knows that the flesh will always demand to be filled
  - A disciple denies the cries of the flesh, so that they are available to serve the needs of others
  - The promise to the disciples is that they will be filled – to satisfaction
  - Anyone who has served God in faith will tell you that they know this is true – no matter how hard or tedious the ministry, when we deny self and serve, we are satisfied – full
  - A disciple puts God first, people second, and self last
  - Third trait of the blessed chosen – **Tender-hearted**
  - **Luke 6:21b, 25b**
  - A disciple is someone who has a heart that is always growing to be more like God’s heart
  - That we care about the same things that God cares about
  - We feel the same way about the things of this world that God feels

- We should weep over the brokenness of this world – the lost – doomed to an eternity separated from God
- For the helpless people of the world – and those who are oppressed and abused, especially women and children
- Over adultery, abortion, and addiction
- Over betrayal, loneliness, despair
- When He refers to ‘laughing’, not saying mirth is bad – it is being focused on entertainment or amusement, while ignoring the things that break God’s heart
- A disciple cares about the things God cares about
- If you want to be used by God, make a choice to care
- The fourth and last trait of the blessed chosen – **Faithful**
- **Luke 6:22, 26**
- Jesus had been teaching about the kingdom of God
- The disciples were imagining themselves playing some kind of role in God’s kingdom – imagine glory and power
- But as Jesus looks them in the eye, He shatters their image of what that looks like for them
- Tells them they will be poor, hungry, and will weep
- And now – you will be hated
- The key to this one is at the end of verse 22 – ‘for the Son of Man’s sake’ = because of Jesus
- Most people won’t hate you just because you are a Christian – they will do it because you are trying to live for Christ
- In verse 26 – ‘when **all men** speak well of you’
- If the world loves you, it might be a sign that you are not a disciple of Christ
- You might be a blood-bought Christian, going to heaven, but you are not a disciple, not someone He can use for His glory, for the blessing of others, and the growth of your faith
- A disciple is trying to be faithful to God, no matter what others think
- They are doing their best to do what is right, no matter what the rest of the world is doing
- God is looking for faithful men and women to use to do His great works in the world

- A person who is available to be one of the blessed chosen disciples God can use seeks to do God's will no matter the cost – They put God first, others second, and themselves last – they care about the things God cares about – and they are faithful to God no matter what the rest of the world thinks about them
- Is it worth it – to live the life of a disciple of Christ? From the world's perspective, it is not an easy life – is it worth it? Jesus says, 'Yes!'
- **Luke 6:23**
- Nothing you do for Christ is wasted, when it is done in faith
- God is keeping a record of all that your faith is costing you
- The more it costs you in this life, the greater the reward in heaven
- This life is temporary, heaven is forever – enjoy the rewards of a disciple for all time **Psalm 16:11**  
**You will show me the path of life; in Your presence *is* fullness of joy; at Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.**
- This life is the only one we have to serve God here on this earth
- Make yourself available to be one of the blessed chosen and you will know God's special blessings in this life and joy and pleasure forevermore.
- **Pray!**