

LIFE LESSON – Making it Live

David Welsh | “Occupy Earth” | Luke 6:1-11 | January 7-8, 2012

Occupying – Luke 19:13

How do we go about applying the teachings of Jesus? Jesus told his disciples in Luke 19 to occupy the earth until He returned, which means they (and we) are to live like Jesus here on earth. What does He expect of us? How do we even begin to become like Him? Jesus said, “Occupy until I come” (Luke 19:13 KJV). We think of occupying as just being in a place and doing nothing. But Jesus meant that we were to do business with what He had given us. So the first thing is to look at what Jesus has given us. What has He given you? **Discuss** what you think Jesus has given you and what you think He might want you to do with it.

Following the rules – Luke 6:1-4

How might the things you do as a Christian irritate or anger non-believers? Even though what you do is not illegal or immoral, how might it upset their values? Discuss how you respond when accused of “breaking the rules” or going against society’s restrictions. What is your defense? Jesus’ best defense was the word of God and that is ours. **Discuss:** When you act in God’s name and people make false accusations, your best defense is the Bible. However, your knowledge of the Bible requires effort, planning and even some sacrifice on your part. It requires getting to know what the Scriptures teach and applying them to your own life. Share what you can do this week to increase your knowledge of God’s Word.

Keeping the Sabbath – Luke 6:1-5

What does the term “Sabbath” mean to you? It was given as a day of rest but the Pharisees had added so many restrictions that it almost literally meant, “doing absolutely nothing”. But the Sabbath was intended as an opportunity for spiritual, mental, and physical restoration. **Discuss** how that can be accomplished in your “world-oriented” world. How can spiritual rest be accomplished by corporate worship – worshipping together with fellow Christians? What do you think is meant by mental or physical rest? Does it mean to “do nothing”? Share some ways you can observe the Sabbath in the way that God intended.

To Heal or Not to Heal – Luke 6:6-8

Does the Sabbath prohibit a work of necessity or of mercy? Why or Why not? If not, then why were the Pharisees so upset that Jesus would heal a man on the Sabbath? There was not question that the man deserved sympathy but Jesus knew their hearts. They were plotting against Jesus – looking for some reason to be rid of Him. **Discuss:** Jesus knows our minds and hearts – our thoughts and intents. But people and their needs are important to Jesus. Every person matters to God. Share what needs around you that you are addressing or ignoring? Share what you think Jesus sees in your heart and mind as you observe the Sabbath.

Stand for the Truth – Luke 6:9-11

How can we guard against misapplying spiritual principles? We stand on God’s Word – we stand for truth. We operate on the principle that people matter. But we must be prepared. When you stand for God and His Word, there will be opposition. **Discuss:** The more you speak the truth, the more opposition you will have. People will either accept the truth or they will attack it. There is no such thing as being neutral when it comes to God’s Word. Share what this promise of Jesus means to you: “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven.” {Matt. 5:11-12}

Written by Sandy Hooper