

## Jesus Appears: To Teach

Luke 6:17-49 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 31 January 2021

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,  
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,  
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.  
– CG Mission Statement*

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**Icebreaker:** Describe some of your favorite or most helpful teachers. What made them special?

**Worship:** [Psalm 8:3-6](#) (*Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation to you?*)

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**Sermon Summary for [Luke 6:17-49](#)** (*Read the passage aloud before reading the sermon summary.*)

For all the times we may feel in control of our lives – that “We’ve got this” – it doesn’t take much to shake us of this illusion. And we need Jesus to show us a better way: the way of love and life and of blessing.

The Priority of Prayer // Prayer is an even greater priority for Jesus than teaching. Before He taught (as seen in Luke 6), Christ went away and prayed all night (v12), showing us the primacy of prayer. It comes first – before anything else – because it correctly puts our attention and our presence before our loving Father. There, the Holy Spirit can do its gracious work in us. Therefore, as a community of believers we must seek to be a praying church. Because without prayer we are merely functioning in our own strength and moving forward towards our own glory.

Christ’s style of teaching // No one but Christ has ever taught with God’s voice and power and authority – and yet, He does all of this as one of us, to us. The Gospel is the story of God coming near, to be with us. And so, we can trust His Word as both inerrant and infallible. It is True and leads us in the right direction. The teachings of our Lord are utterly good and loving... but also understanding of what it is to be human. Jesus therefore does what is necessary to help these teachings “stick” – to sink deep into our hearts. He continually reinforces His messages, knowing we need to hear them multiple times and in different ways.

The context of His teaching // Although crowds surround Jesus, His teaching is aimed at His disciples. To be a disciple is to be a life-long learner from the ultimate rabbi. He is preparing them to live out the way of the Kingdom, for their own sakes and for the sake of the world. So, Jesus’ teaching is not primarily about how to be saved (although it does that as well); He is teaching us wisdom – how to live out our salvation. His is the beautiful way: for our good and flourishing... but also for God’s blessing to flow through us and into the world. And so we seek to wisely live out His teachings as His kingdom people – not simply for our benefit, but for the world. Let us love deeply, uniquely, sacrificially and with integrity as we are called.

Revolutionary teaching // Jesus is bringing God’s rule back to the world. And while it might look like He is turning the world upside down, it is actually Him setting creation right side up again. The blessings and woes that He describes may be very different than we expect, but Christ’s teaching is not about being comfortable. It’s about comfort for the oppressed and blessing them through the Gospel. It also means comfort and blessing for us as we give our lives away – to love those who hate us, to pray for those who persecute us, to wish good on our enemies, to give freely to those who will likely never give us anything back. We can be like this, because this is what God is like! This is a call to live lives of extravagant, inexplicable love, in response to the lavish, inexplicable love of God. This is Gospel life, gifted to us so that we may live it. If God is astonishingly merciful, how can we be any less? If God is this stunningly humble, how can we not do likewise?

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## Discussion Questions *(You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)*

- Priority of Prayer:
    - Discuss how Jesus prioritizes prayer before teaching, or healing, or drawing crowds, or setting apart apostles, or casting out demons ([Luke 6:12-16](#)). How should this be a model for our lives?
    - Share some of your prayer habits or routines. How much is prayer really a part of your life, not just in theory, but reality? What habits tend to prevent you from making prayer?
  - Christ's style of teaching:
    - Why should we never tire of hearing or reading the teachings of Christ?
    - What is the benefit of repeatedly taking in the authoritative, inspired, inerrant word of God?
  - The context of Jesus's teaching:
    - Who is Jesus directing His teaching toward here in Luke 6 and why is this significant?
    - What do you learn about how to live as a follower of Christ in this teaching? How is Jesus' life a pattern for us? How do you see God living in this way toward you?
  - Jesus's teaching is revolutionary:
    - In what ways do you see Jesus' teaching in this passage as revolutionary?
    - Discuss any questions you may have about how to put these teachings into practice.
    - Where is one point in this teaching that the Holy Spirit convicts you to repent and move forward into the new life of the kingdom in fresh ways? Share with the group.
  - What had the most impact on you from the message or this passage?
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## Prayer

This week, try using The Lord's Prayer [Matthew 6:9-13](#) format during your prayer time by praying together after each topic in the prayer. For the weekly Prayer Guide click [HERE](#).

## Engage & Experience: Generous Grace – Love

Share generous forgiveness struggles and success stories from last week. This week, journal about the generous grace and love that Jesus is asking us to show to others in [Luke 6:27-38](#).

We are enabled to offer extravagant, inexplicable, lavish, generous love because this is how Jesus loves us. We can be generous with our heart because of who we are as followers of Christ. Pick a specific action from this passage where you feel God's personal invitation to you to show generous love to someone where you live, work, or play.

## Generous Love Resources

- Bible - [1 John 4:7-12](#): What's the connection between one's experience as a beloved child of God and the Bible's frequently repeated counsel to love one another?
- Table Talk Article: Why Should We Be Generous? [HERE](#)
- Book by Miraslav Volf, [Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace](#), [HERE](#)
- Book by Ken Sande, [The PeaceMaker](#), [HERE](#)