

Encountering Jesus

Luke 6:1-11

Welcome to this gathering of Encountering Jesus through the Gospel of Luke. As noted through these weeks, the Scriptures are a “living Word” or testimony...centered around the now risen Christ...so when we encounter Jesus through the Scriptures, we encounter not only what “was” ...but what “is.” May you enjoy this opportunity to further know each other and Christ.

Getting to know one another...

What is your dream vacation?

Centering...

Take a quiet moment to center your soul on God. Take a minute for all those participating to close their eyes... take a deep breath...and prayerfully listen as one member reads the following Scripture... slowly ...three times...after which they may lead in an opening prayer for the group time.

Psalm 4:8 (NIV) – *“In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.”*

Exploring...

Read Luke 6:1-11 (Best to have it read aloud, by one or two individuals)

Luke 6:1-11 (NIV)

One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels. ²Some of the Pharisees asked, “Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?” ³Jesus answered them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.” ⁵Then Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.” ⁶On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled. ⁷The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. ⁸But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Get up and stand in front of everyone.” So he got up and stood there. ⁹Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?” ¹⁰He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was completely restored. ¹¹But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.

1. Read 1 Samuel 21:1-6. How does this story of David apply to what Jesus and his disciples had done? What was Jesus’ main point?

2. Imagine being the man described in verse six. How might you have experienced what took place?

3. What was the Pharisees’ concern? How does this differ from Jesus’ concern? How did he clarify the Sabbath issue?

**4. Why do you think Jesus chose to heal the man, knowing the Pharisees were looking for it?*

5. This scene captures what might be described as the relationship between “rules and their relational purpose.” Jesus was never simply “against rules”...and in fact said, “if we love him we will obey and

keep his commandments”(John 14:15). How might you describe what was so corrupted and destructive about how the religious leaders were relating to the “rules”?

**6. How do you think this problem, often referred to as “religious legalism,” keep you from enjoying the Lord and his true Sabbath?*

**7. The Pharisees’ legalism kept them from doing the work of God? What things in your life are keeping you from doing it?*

8. The Sabbath was established as part of forming their relationship with God... to set the people apart as rooted in a reliance and rest in God...as the ultimate source of all. Read Ezekiel 20:12. How is this meaning of Sabbath reflected in Jesus’ actions?

9. What is your relationship with the Sabbath in your own life? How does this add to or detract from your relationship with God? What comes to mind when you consider how you could grow in the way you approach or shape your relationship to Sabbath and Sabbath rest?

** This question is best considered OPTIONAL. It may be best to skip if the group is large or short on time, perhaps having had extensive discussion on a previous question.*