

Reflection Questions: Luke 6:1-11

For the message, "Excuse Me, But Your Meanness Is Showing" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on May 12, 2019

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

LUKE 6:1-11

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. 2 Some of the Pharisees asked, "Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?"

3 Jesus answered them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? 4 He 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." ["And if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless." - Matthew 12:7] 5 Then Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

6 On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled. 7 The 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. 8 But 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.

9 Then 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?" ["And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at the hardness of their hearts." - Mark 3:5]

10 He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was completely restored. 11 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus. ["The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him." - Mark 3:6]

QUESTIONS

1. The Pharisees were the religious leaders of the day, and if anyone should have been in tune with God's kind heart of mercy, it should have been them. But they were the complete opposite. How do you process the fact that some religious people who claim to be close to God are actually some of the meanest (hard-hearted, unmerciful) people around?
2. Jesus gave these final words to his disciples before he was arrested and crucified: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. But his everyone will know you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35).
 - Jesus clearly wants his disciples to be known for their love. What are some other things that followers of Jesus are tempted to think is more important than love?

3. Pastor and author, David Cassidy, writes provocatively in his book, “Are you ‘leading in love’—or with your politics and pet causes that allow you to define the boundaries of who you will care for? If your de-church, never-churched, LGBTQ, agnostic, atheist, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Mormon, or even Baptist neighbor thinks the thing that characterizes you is your opinion rather than your love, you’re doing it wrong.”
 - What do you think of what he is saying? Is this a fair application of what Jesus said should mark his followers?

4. Jesus’ vision for what it meant to be truly human and the Pharisees’ vision were radically different. How would you describe the kind of community of faith that would be created if people were to opt for Jesus’ vision? What would the Pharisees vision of community look like?

5. The Apostle Paul writes, Colossians 3:12-14, “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience...Above all these, put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” And in Romans 13:14 he says, “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - What are some practical ways we can do this in our day to day lives? How can we encourage each other towards this vision of clothing ourselves in Jesus?

6. What is the connection between being the kinds of people Jesus wants for his mission and our mission as followers of Jesus in this community we live in?