



SPORTS IN FOCUS

Christ's Message, Ministry, and Miracles
 Luke 6:17-9:50 • Lesson Four

READY

- Jesus ministry was full of wonderful teaching and miracles. His ministry goes on today in our lives too. Think back over your recent spiritual journey. Then describe at time when: You participated in a vital ministry and felt that God used you.

SET

Context of Luke 6:17-9:50

These next chapters in Luke record Christ's preaching, healing, and teaching. Beginning in 6:17, we find the so-called Sermon on the Plateau. The similarity to the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:1-7:29) is remarkable. It is possible that Jesus simply preached the same sermon on more than one occasion. It's more likely that these are different accounts of the same event. Luke's version is abbreviated. He likely omitted sections from the sermon that were uniquely Jewish since he was speaking to a Gentile audience.

Keys to Text

Gospel: Literally, this word means "good news" or "good message," from the Greek word *euangelion*. Messengers bringing good news of victory in battle originally used this Greek term. In the New Testament it points to the good news of salvation. That is: Jesus Christ came to earth to abolish the power of sin by offering Himself as a perfect sacrifice on the cross.

GO

Read Luke 6:17-9:50

1. Luke 6:17-38 features Christ's teaching. List at least five kingdom truths or principles from these verses.
2. What is the message of the parable of the two foundations (6:46-49)?
3. Luke 7:17-30 contains an interesting conversation between Christ and the disciples of John the Baptist. What prompted John to ask, "Are you the Coming One?"
4. What is the message in Christ's parable of the lamp (Luke 8:16-18)? What is the meaning of verse 18?
5. How does Jesus define or describe the true cost of discipleship in 9:23-26?
6. In this study you have examined many of the words and works of Christ. What has impacted you most deeply? What new insight have you received about the Person of Jesus Christ?
7. James 1:22 says we are to be "doers of the Word." What specifically are you going to do today with the truth you have read?

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A baseball pitcher has handed back the \$12 million he earned because he "didn't feel he was worth it." In a show of humility, Gil Meche gave the cash back to the Kansas City Royals after a poor performance last year. He only made nine starts all year without scoring a single win. Humility is seeing the contrast between what is perfect and our inability to achieve that perfection. Gil Meche's example of humility helps us see an athlete who recognizes his inability to earn his salary and refuses to accept it. When Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount, the entire crowd was stunned when he said, "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). His sermon set the standard of moral perfection so high that no one on earth could even come close to it. This is the virtue or character quality of true spiritual humility. A true "attitude fruit" of Christ-like humility begins with realizing that we are fallen sinners in desperate need of a Savior. The more we understand what Christ has done for us through His death on the cross in our place, the more the "action fruit" of humility will show itself in our lives.