

Discussion Questions for Small Groups or Individual Study

Luke 6:12-26 Week of April 26

1. What has been the most difficult aspect of “sheltering in place” for you over the past few weeks? Have you experienced any benefits from spending more time than usual at home and/or with family?

Luke 6:12-19

2. In what ways would it have been “easier” for Jesus to work through the established religious system of his day if they had been willing to work with him? The twelve followers who Jesus chose as his “inner circle” and named as Apostles were ordinary people rather than respected religious leaders. What qualities have they demonstrated that the religious leaders have not shown? Read **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**. How would Jesus’ choice of “regular people” allow his message to spread farther and faster?
3. The twelve were already among the crowd of Jesus’ followers, and they would have witnessed the healing and teaching that took place even if they had not been chosen as Apostles. How do you think being invited into Jesus’ inner circle might have affected their perceptions and responses to the events that follow? How have you seen Jesus’ followers (yourself or others) respond differently to the current Covid-19 crisis because of their commitment to Christ?

Luke 6:20-26

4. How would Jesus’ statements of “blessing” (joy, happiness) have offered hope and encouragement to some of those who were going through difficult times? Do you understand the statements of “woe” as a blanket condemnation of material wealth, comfort and popularity? Why or why not?
5. How would you respond to the objection that “Christianity only promises ‘pie-in-the-sky’ benefits? How would you summarize the “eternal perspective” Jesus is calling his followers to have?
6. How do Jesus’ teaching in these verses offer hope for those facing financial difficulty and uncertainty in our present situation? How does it offer comfort to those who are experiencing emotional difficulty?
7. Mark’s gospel says Jesus called the twelve “to be with him.” What is one new or different way you have found to spend time with Jesus recently?