**LUKE 6**

**True Obedience**

**6: 1-11**

**Teachings on the Sabbath**

For many Christians in today’s world, keeping the sabbath has become a quaint memory. But for Jesus’ contemporaries, the sabbath was one of the chief badges of their identity in a hostile world, a sign to them and their neighbours that they were God’s special people. It’s easy for modern Western Christians to mock the Jews of Jesus’ day for fussing about something that doesn’t concern us. Yet there are many things in our society which have become just as central for us – and perhaps just as much under God’s judgement – as sabbath-keeping was for them

* What practices, traditions or rules do we tend to cling to today in the way the Jews of Jesus’ time clung to their sabbath-keeping?

**6: 12-26**

**The Beatitudes**

The four promises and four warnings of verses 17-26 are presented in terms of Israel’s great scriptural codes of blessings and curses from the book of Deuteronomy (such as chapters 27-28). These formed part of the covenant (a charter or binding agreement) between God and Israel.

* In what ways are these promises and warnings an upside-down covenant?
* What do Jesus’ promises and warnings for our world today look like for people who will hear his call and follow him?

**6: 27-38**

**Loving Your Enemies**

* Describe a time when someone treated you or another person according to just one of the instructions by Jesus in 6: 27-38.

What was it like?

Jesus’ point was not to provide his followers with a new rule book, a list of dos and don’ts you could mark off one by one, and sit back satisfied at the end of a successful moral day.

* Rather, what kind of heart and spirit was Jesus seeking to inculcate in his followers?

**6: 39-49**

**Judging Others and True Obedience**

Look at the four vivid word-sketches in 6:39-45 (the blind leading the blind, the student and the teacher, the speck and the plank, and the good and bad trees).

* How does each offer a ‘solution’ that leaves the depths of the problem untouched?