

group Bible Study – October 4, 2006

Read Luke chapters 4-6

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When you are with Jesus, you are in the Kingdom of God. Like a storm sweeping through the plains and changing the landscape, Jesus sweeps through the towns in chapters 4-6 and brings a new Kingdom with him. He has the powerful courage to face the devil and his demons (4:1-12; 4:31-37). He has the powerful mercy to cleanse a leper and a paralytic -- "I do choose!" (5:12-13; 5:17-27). He has the powerful wisdom to call people to leave their ways of life, leave their ridiculous religious arguments and follow him (5:1-12; 6:12-16; 6:17-40). Where Jesus is, there is a new way of life and a new power to live it. Walk with Jesus and find yourself in a strange new land where courage, mercy and wisdom rule, and where fear, hatred and stupidity are silenced!

Study Questions (for individuals or groups):

- Jesus resists evil when he is tempted, and shows his power over evil when he casts out the unclean spirit. What are you afraid of in your life? What evil oppresses you? What evil oppresses the world? As a citizen of the new Kingdom and with the power of Jesus, what evil do you desire the courage to speak out against?
- In what areas of your life do you long for mercy and healing? Who can you talk to about those issues? As a citizen of the Kingdom of God, do you actively look to be a source of healing for others? Don't underestimate the healing power of true kindness and honesty in your relationships!
- Jesus calls the disciples and they are confident that he will direct them. What is the difference between "direction" and "clarity"? Did Jesus' disciples know what was in front of them? Do you want clarity from God about everything in your life, or are you willing to enter his kingdom without all the answers?

Special Bonus: **The Nicene Creed** (A.D. 381)

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son].
With the Father and the Son
he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.