# Introduction and John the Baptist's Birth Announced
## Luke 1:1-25

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The birth of John the Baptist was an answer to prayer.**

**2. The birth of John the Baptist was a fulfillment of prophecy.**

**3. The birth of John the Baptist was a test of faith.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't lose your testimony because of doubts.**

**Questions**

1. Who was Theophilus?

2. Some skeptics say that there was a big blank of time between the death of Christ and the writing of the gospels, during which memories were failing and stories were being exaggerated. Is this true?

3. How was Zacharias chosen to burn incense before the Lord?

4. Review how the birth of John the Baptist was a fulfillment of prophecy.

5. How did Zacharias react to Gabriel's promise that Elizabeth would bear a son?

**Answers**

1. We don't know for sure. It seems he was a new Christian and a Roman official. His name means "friend of God." One of Luke's purposes in writing this gospel was to confirm the faith of Theophilus – to show him (and us) that the Christian faith rests on solid historical fact.

2. No, there were many accounts of the events being recorded during this time span. Additionally, the gap between the events and when the first gospel (either Matthew or Mark) was written was only about 15 years.

3. Zacharias was of the division of Abiathar, one of the twenty-four divisions of priests that carried out responsibilities in the Temple. Each day one priest from the division of priests on duty was chosen by lot to go into the Holy Place of the Temple and burn incense on the golden altar of incense. This day the lot fell to Zacharias – certainly not by chance.

4. For 400 years no prophet had spoken in Israel. Malachi 4:5-6 prophesied that a great prophet would come as a forerunner to the Messiah. John the Baptist was the forerunner of Christ.

5. Zacharias dared to ask Gabriel for a sign that this word from the Lord was true and really going to happen. The Lord did grant him a sign – Zacharias was unable to speak until John was born!

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Herod the Great is considered "great" in secular history because of his magnificent building projects. In verse 15 John the Baptist is described as great because of his commitment and service to the Lord. Discuss these contrasting measures of greatness. How can you be great in God's eyes?

2. This account of Zacharias and Elizabeth can be a lesson on prayer for us. Don't give up hope. God can still answer your long-time prayers, as He did for Zacharias and Elizabeth. Notice that the answer comes as Zacharias was going about his God-given responsibilities. That should be our pattern as well.

**Challenge**

1. When we doubt the word of God it affects our testimony before the watching world. We are unable to speak with power and conviction to the people. Do you have doubts right now? Go to the Lord about these doubts, so you can have a strong testimony.

# Mary Will Be the Mother of the Messiah
## Luke 1:26-56

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The virgin birth of Jesus is a fact of history.**

**2. The virgin birth of Jesus is a truth of theology.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Let's magnify the Lord for His blessings, as Mary did.**

**Questions**

1. Why did Gabriel respond differently to Zacharias' question (verse 18) than Mary's question (verse 34)?

2. Does Scripture ever refer to Mary as "the Mother of God"?

3. Why is the virgin birth of Christ theologically important?

4. When will Jesus reign over "*the throne of His father David" (verse 32)*?

5. Why did Mary refer to the Lord as *"God my Savior" (verse 47)*?

**Answers**

1. Zacharias was asking for a sign because he doubted the Word of the Lord. Mary did not doubt the Word from the Lord. She was just asking how God would do it.

2. No, God does not have a mother. Mary was the mother of Jesus. Jesus is God, but He is Man as well. Jesus was and is the eternal Son of God who became incarnate and was born to the virgin Mary.

3. Being born of a woman ensured His humanity, but being virgin born ensured the sinless nature of His deity. By bring conceived of the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus was fully human, but did not have a sinful nature. He was holy and sinless, and therefore able to die for our sins.

4. This promise to Israel will be fulfilled when the Lord returns to this earth with His Church and sets up His Millennial Kingdom.

5. Mary needed to be saved from her sins just as every other descendant of Adam.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Review Gabriel's response to Zacharias and Mary. It is not wrong to go to the Lord in an attitude of faith and ask Him about things we don't understand. Discuss why it is different to demand a sign because of doubt and unbelief.

2. The virgin birth of Jesus was not developed by the early church to transform the human Jesus of history into the divine Christ of faith. Why do you think so much effort on the part of the skeptics goes into trying to undermine the virgin birth?

**Challenge**

1. Mary magnified the Lord for His blessings on herself and His people. She also praised the Lord for keeping His promises to His people. Let's magnify the Lord for His blessings, as Mary did.

# The Birth of John the Baptist and Zechariah's Prophecy
## Luke 1:57-80

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The arrival of John the Baptist inspired great awe.**

**2. The arrival of John the Baptist anticipated great blessing.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Have you seen the sunrise, or are you still in darkness?**

**2. Let's encourage our children to be strong in spirit.**

**Questions**

1. Why were Hebrew sons circumcised on the eighth day?

2. What was unusual about the naming of this child?

3. Why did the arrival of John the Baptist inspire great awe from the friends and neighbors?

4. What are the lineages of John and Jesus?

**Answers**

1. Medical studies have shown that on the eighth day, clotting agents in the blood peak, so this is the ideal day in which to circumcise a male child. God incorporated into His Law many directives that we now know protected the people from disease and sickness.

2. In that culture the first male child would usually be named after his father or another relative. Elizabeth wanted to name the child, John. Although Zacharias was deaf and dumb, he confirmed that the child would be named John, as the angel Gabriel had instructed him.

3. Elizabeth gave birth in her old age, which would have been noteworthy. Also Zacharias' affliction of deafness and dumbness must have inspired much curiosity.

4. John the Baptist is the forerunner of the Messiah, from the priestly line of Levi, but the Messiah will be from the line of David of the tribe of Judah.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss what you have learned about the Essenes, a sect within Judaism. Discuss the possible link to Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. How does this relate to John the Baptist?

2. John the Baptist was the forerunner of the Messiah, whose salvation would ultimately bring deliverance from all Israel's enemies and bring holiness and righteousness to God's people. When will this occur?

**Challenge**

1. As parents we often focus on the academic, physical, athletic, and social development of our children. But what about their spiritual development? Do you encourage your children to be strong in spirit?

# The Birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior
## Luke 2:1-20

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. World rulers are mere instruments in the hand of God.**

**2. Country shepherds are not insignificant to the heart of God.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Let's learn the lesson of the swaddling clothes.**

**2. Don't limit God by your expectations.**

**Questions**

1. The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem is built over the supposed spot in the cave where the Lord was born and laid in a manger. Is this tradition accurate?

2. For what political reason did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?

3. For what spiritual reason did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?

4. What was the common opinion about shepherds during this time?

5. Review the meaning of the three titles of the Lord in the angel's announcement (verse 11).

**Answers**

1. We can't know for sure. We do know that there are a number of caves in that area, and these caves were used as stables for animals in ancient days.

2. Under Caesar Augustus' imperial rule it was decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire for military and taxation purposes. Jews were exempt from military service, but not from taxes. The Roman regulations required all residents to register in the hometown of their forefathers. Because Joseph and Mary were of the house of David, they had to go to Bethlehem, the city of David.

3. Because the prophecy of Micah 5:2 said that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

4. In that day, shepherds were common, ordinary, simple folk that many other people despised because they were often religiously unclean. But God did not choose the Pharisees or Sadducees or political rulers to be the first to hear about the Messiah's birth. He chose the shepherds!

5. Savior – He is the only Savior for sin
   Christ – He is the Anointed One
   The Messiah Lord – He is God

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss Proverbs 21:1. World rulers are mere instruments in the hand of God. This was true of Caesar Augustus at the birth of Christ, and it is true today.

2. No one in Israel expected the Messiah to come in the way He did. Review how they expected Him to come. When the angels announced the birth to the shepherds; they did not limit God by their expectations. What about you? Do you limit God by the way you expect your prayers to be answered? Or the way you expect God to work out His plan in your life? Don't limit God by your expectations.

**Challenge**

1. The shepherds would recognize the Baby because He was wrapped in swaddling clothes, not because He had a glowing halo! As Christians our bodies do not radiate a glow, but we have the light and life of Christ within us. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7.

# The Presentation of the Lord Jesus at the Temple
## Luke 2:21-38

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Godly Simeon recognized the truth that Jesus was the Savior for all peoples.**

**2. Godly Anna shared the truth that Jesus was the Redeemer of Jerusalem.**

**Practical Application**

**1. You're never too old to serve.**

**Questions**

1. Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Jerusalem forty days after the birth of Jesus?

2. Who was Simeon?

3. What special promise was given to Simeon?

4. Review the four parts of Simeon's prophecy.

5. Who was Anna?

**Answers**

1. 1) For Mary to offer the purification sacrifice after childbirth, according to the Law in Leviticus 12.
   2) To present Jesus as a baby to the Lord God because He was the firstborn child, according to the law in Exodus 13 all firstborns belonged to the Lord.

2. Simeon was a godly Jewish man, who was part of the godly remnant in Israel.

3. The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would not die before he had seen the Messiah. One day the Lord led him into the Temple just as Mary and Joseph arrived to present Jesus as a baby to the Lord.

4. 1) The proud and righteous ones who would not believe that Jesus was the Messiah would fall. The humble and repentant believers would rise and be blessed.
   2) Jesus was a sign from God because He would show God's moral standards by His life and teaching.
   3) A sword would pierce Mary's soul as she would witness the horrible injustice of her Son being crucified.
   4) The thoughts of many hearts would be revealed because of Jesus.

5. Anna was another member of the godly remnant of Jews in Israel. Despite her old age, she lived within the Temple complex and served the Lord with prayers and fasting.
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**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss the two insights Simeon had into God's salvation:
1) God's salvation will come through the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ – not through human good works.
2) God's salvation is for all peoples – not just Jews.

2. Discuss what it means that the godly remnant was looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. Refer to Isaiah 40:1-2 and 52:9-10.

**Challenge**

1. How old are you? Anna was between 84 and 100 years old, yet she served the Lord with fasting and prayer. If you feel that you no longer have the energy that you once had to actively serve the Lord, you can always serve by praying.

# The Lord's Visit to Jerusalem at the Age of Twelve
## Luke 2:39-52

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The Lord Jesus as God was an unusual child.**

**2. The Lord Jesus as Man was a normal child.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Be a friend like Jesus!**

**Questions**

1. What do we know about the childhood of Jesus?

2. What are the first recorded words of Jesus?

3. What do you think Jesus' attitude was when He was with the Temple teachers *"listening to them and asking them questions" (verse 46)*?

4. Would Jesus have been recognizable on the street corner?

5. Why did Jesus and His family travel to Jerusalem?

**Answers**

1. Not much. This is the only inspired account we have of an event in our Lord's boyhood. We do know from the Father's declaration at Jesus' Baptism that throughout these years the Lord was perfect and lived a life that was pleasing to God the Father.

2. *"Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" (verse 49).* This was a distinct claim to His deity.

3. He surely did not have a flippant or argumentative manner. He listened and inquired sincerely, as a child who loved God's Word and wanted to know it.

4. No, He would not have looked differently than any other child – He didn't have a halo!

5. To celebrate the yearly Passover feast.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss how the Lord Jesus was an unusual child. He was God incarnate! Imagine how different His childhood would have been, especially from His earthly parents' perspective.

2. Sometime in our efforts to protect the Lord's deity, we downplay His humanity. But Jesus was not only fully God, but fully Man. As a Man He grew and matured from a baby through boyhood to manhood. He grew physically, mentally, and socially. Discuss the Lord's humanity and it's importance to Hebrews 4:15.

**Challenge**

1. As Jesus grew up He grew in favor with men as well as God. He reached out to them and encouraged and helped them. Be a friend like Jesus!

# The Ministry of John the Baptist; The Baptism of Repentance
## Luke 3:1-14

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The preaching of John the Baptist included a baptism of repentance.**

**2. The preaching of John the Baptist emphasized the fruits of repentance.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Be a clear voice in the wilderness.**

**Questions**

1. Why were Anna and Caiaphas both listed as high priest in verse 2?

2. Where was John the Baptist living before he began his public ministry?

3. How were people to prepare spiritually and morally for the coming of the Messiah?

4. Is John's baptism the same as believer's baptism?

5. Did John's baptism save the people? What about baptism today?

**Answers**

1. The Romans had deposed Annas and eventually his son-in-law Caiaphas took over, but the Jews still recognized Annas as the high priest. Annas and Caiaphas were both corrupt as we know from the biblical record of our Lord's trial.

2. He lived in the Judean Wilderness (see Luke 1:80).

3. The people needed to repent of their sins, get their hearts right, and set their lives in order before God, because the Messiah was about to arrive.

4. No; believer's baptism comes after our Lord's ascension and the formation of the Church. John's baptism called Jews to state publicly that they were repenting of their sins and were preparing for the coming of the Messiah.

5. John's baptism did not give forgiveness of sins, but the people's *repentance* resulted in forgiveness of sins. Baptism today does not save you and is not necessary for salvation. It is a public statement that you have repented of your sins and turned by faith to Christ for salvation.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Read Luke 3:4-6 which is a quote from Isaiah 40:3-5. John the Baptist applies this road-making process in a figurative way to the need to prepare spiritually and morally for the coming of the Messiah. For us, the Messiah has already come. But are there times when you have needed to prepare yourself spiritually, perhaps before confronting opposition? How did you prepare yourself?

2. Discuss the fruits of repentance which John preached. Fruit does not lead to repentance, but is the natural result of repentance.

**Challenge**

1. Don't let pride or self-promotion get in the way of your ministry to the Lord. Be a clear voice in the wilderness.

# Our Lord's Baptism and Genealogy
## Luke 3:15-38

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The baptism of Jesus by John linked Jesus to the godly Jewish remnant.**

**2. The genealogy of Jesus by Luke linked Jesus to the whole human race.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't rush into full-time ministry.**

**2. Remember, the story is not over yet.**

**Questions**

1. Why were the people in a state of expectation?

2. Explain the baptism *"with the Holy Spirit and fire"* in verse 16.

3. What would be the fate of John the Baptist?

4. Why was Jesus baptized by John?

5. How is Luke's genealogy of Jesus different from Matthew's?

**Answers**

1. They realized that something big was about to happen. No prophet had spoken in Israel for 400 years; now a prophet had come to announce the Messiah! Some of the people were expectant because they realized the timetable of Daniel's vision in Daniel 9 meant the Messiah was at hand.

2. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was at Pentecost and every believer today is brought into that baptized company of believers. Most likely the baptism with fire links to verse 17 and speaks of the judgment of unbelievers at our Lord's return.

3. About a year and a half after these events, John the Baptist was imprisoned by Herod Antipas because John had denounced Herod for divorcing his wife in order to marry his brother's wife.

4. Jesus did not need a baptism of repentance – He never sinned! But He underwent John's baptism to set the example for the people and to identify with the godly remnant of Jews who were rightly separating themselves from the corrupt religious establishment of Judaism.

5. Luke traces our Lord's lineage all the way back to Adam who was created by God as head of the human race. Matthew's genealogy of the Lord goes back through David to Abraham to emphasize that Jesus was the promised Messiah – the king of Israel.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Jesus did not need to repent of any sin, because He never sinned. Review the following verses which emphasize that Jesus never sinned and did not have a sinful nature: 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:22, and 1 John 3:5.

2. The genealogy of Jesus by Luke linked Jesus to the whole human race. Stop and thank the Lord for the glorious truth that Jesus is the Savior for the world – not just for the Jewish people.

**Challenge**

1. Are you discouraged that the doors of full-time ministry have not opened to you yet? Just be faithful and obedient in the ministry at hand. Remember, Jesus and the Levites in the Old Testament began ministry around 30 years of age.

# The Temptations of Christ
## Luke 4:1-13

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The temptations of Christ were proof that Jesus could not sin.**

**2. The temptations of Christ are proof that only Jesus did not sin.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Expect Satan to use Scripture, but out of context.**

**Questions**

1. Were these temptations the only time that Satan tempted Christ?

2. How do these three temptations emphasize the humanity of Christ?

3. Who led Jesus into the wilderness?

4. Does the fact that Jesus could not sin make the temptations meaningless?

5. How did the Lord resist and refute Satan's temptations?

**Answers**

1. No, verse 2 indicates that He was being tempted during the entire 40 day period. The temptations described here come at the end of the 40 days. After Satan departed he looked for other opportunities to tempt Christ.

2. Man is body, soul, and spirit. Luke's order of the three temptations emphasizes appeals to those three areas, in order. Compare this to 1 John 2:16.

3. The Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness specifically for Him to be tempted by Satan. This experience proved that Jesus could not sin.

4. No! These were real temptations, and our Lord withstood the pressure. See Hebrews 4:15. Remember the illustration of the wooden train trestle versus the steel trestle.

5. He quoted Scripture – three times from the book of Deuteronomy!

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss this statement: Jesus not only did not sin, but as God, He could not sin.

2. Just as Jesus used Scripture to refute Satan, we can use the Word of God, our Sword of the Spirit to fight his temptations. In the face of danger, the Holy Spirit can bring Scripture truth to mind to combat the lies of Satan. But how can He bring it to mind if it is not in your mind? Do you memorize Scripture regularly?

**Challenge**

1. Satan quoted Scripture as well, but out of context! Beware of him using these same tactics today.

# The Lord Begins His Great Galilean Ministry
## Luke 4:14-30

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Most believers do not know Scripture the way Jesus did.**

**2. Most unbelievers do not like God when they understand what Jesus said.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't worry, Jesus may be rejected, but never removed.**

**2. Invite a guest speaker for a bigger crowd.**

**Questions**

1. How much time passed between the Temptations of Christ and this event in His hometown of Nazareth?

2. Why did the Lord sit down after He finished reading?

3. How did Jesus know the Scripture so well?

4. Why did the Lord stop reading mid-sentence in Isaiah 61:2?

5. What point was Jesus making by referring to the ministries of Elijah and Elisha?

**Answers**

1. About a year, during which time our Lord was ministering in Jerusalem and Judea.

2. In that culture, a teacher would stand to read from Scripture, then sit down to teach about the passage.

3. As a Man, He came to know Scripture by diligent study and learning.

4. The first half of the verse *"the acceptable year of the Lord,"* was being fulfilled at that time. But the second half, *"the day of vengeance of our God,"* would not be until the Second Coming of Christ when He returns in judgment.

5. The implication was that if the people rejected what Jesus said, God in His grace would turn to the Gentiles.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Jesus had a thorough knowledge of Scripture because of His diligent study. This is the only way for you to know God's Word as well, through studying and learning. This Bible study on Luke is a good start. Where will you go from here?

2. Secular people today are fine with Jesus as long as He is presented as a good man and moral teacher. But when He is taught as the One and only Son of God and the only way of salvation, unbelievers can become very angry and defensive. Discuss "tolerance" in our culture today, and why people refuse to be "tolerant" of Christianity.

**Challenge**

1. The Lord allowed Himself to be rejected by the people of Nazareth, but they could not get rid of Him. Don't worry when your colleagues, neighbors, or fellow students reject your testimony concerning Christ. They cannot get rid of Jesus and the truth.

# Our Lord's Power Over Demons and Disease
## Luke 4:31-44

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. As the great Creator, Jesus could cast out any and all demons.**

**2. As the great Physician, Jesus could heal any and all diseases.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Have a quiet time to stay focused.**

**Questions**

1. Where did the Lord go after He was rejected in Nazareth?

2. Look back at Luke 4:18. How was this quotation from Isaiah 61 fulfilled in Jesus' ministry?

3. Joke: Why did Peter later deny Christ?

4. Why did Jesus tell the demons to be quiet?

5. Were the demons created as evil spirits?

**Answers**

1. He left Nazareth and probably never returned. He went down to Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee and made this fishing village His new home.

2. In Capernaum the Lord preached and taught the good news with authority. He brought release and freedom to the demon-possessed and downtrodden and brought healing to the sick and diseased.

3. Because the Lord healed his mother-in-law! (Serious side note: Note that Peter, an apostle, was married. Anyone who tries to teach a celibate priesthood certainly cannot appeal to Peter. He was a married man.)

4. The Lord did not want the testimony of demons.

5. No, they were created as holy angels, but became evil spirits when they rebelled along with Satan.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Review the significant facts about demons that we learn from this event:

1) Demons can be in religious places.
2) Different demons have different characteristics:
   - unclean demon – an evil spirit that caused morally unclean thoughts and actions
   - deaf and dumb spirit – Mark 9
   - spirit of infirmity – Luke 13
   - doctrines of demons – an evil spirit involved in spreading false doctrine through false teachers (1 Timothy 4)
3) Demons recognize who Jesus is.

2. As the great Physician, Jesus can heal any and all diseases. There are many reasons, however, the Lord may choose not to heal a sick believer today. Do not assume it is because that believer does not have enough faith. That is a devastating assumption. Discuss how someone can bring glory to God from a life of suffering and in the way they handle suffering.

**Challenge**

1. The Lord Jesus knew His purpose was to preach the good news throughout Israel. In order to stay focused on His purpose and not get sidetracked with the physical needs of the people, He spent quiet time alone with the Father. We too need to get alone with the Lord each day to stay focused on what He has called us to do.

# The Great Catch of Fish; The Healing of the Leper
## Luke 5:1-16

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Christians should be creative in their ministry.**

**2. Christians should be compassionate in their ministry.**

**Practical Application**

**1. You can loan your boat to the Lord.**

**2. Let's remember that we are not worthy.**

**Questions**

1. Is this great catch of fish the same event as the one recorded in John 21?

2. Was this the first time Peter had met the Lord?

3. What is the Lake of Gennesaret?

4. How did the Lord Jesus as a Man prevent burnout in His ministry?

5. What does leprosy represent in the Bible?

**Answers**

1. No; this miracle was at the beginning of our Lord's earthly ministry. The one recorded in John 21 is after our Lord's resurrection when Peter is restored.

2. No; we learn in John's gospel that during our Lord's earlier Judean ministry Peter was brought to the Lord by Andrew. Some disciples were present when the Lord changed the water into wine at the wedding of Cana (John 2) and when He met the Samaritan woman (John 4) – both of which took place before this catch of fish. At this time, however, Peter and others become more committed as they leave the fishing business to follow the Lord.

3. This is another name for the Sea of Galilee.

4. He took time to get away from the crowds to spend time in prayer.

5. Leprosy illustrates the ugliness of sin. In the early stages, the effects of leprosy can be covered up. But it is only a matter of time before the horrible effects of leprosy are manifested. So it is with sin. The ugliness of sin and its effects become obvious with time.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss several of the lessons we can learn from this miracle as we seek to be "fishers of men."

2. The Lord was creative in His ministry in order to talk to more people. Discuss ways people nowadays can be creative in spreading the gospel, perhaps through the means of technology.

**Challenge**

1. You might not have a boat, but do you have something you can loan to the Lord? Be creative as you think of ways to use your possessions to serve the Lord.

# The Healing of the Paralytic
## Luke 5:17-26

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The Lord honors the faith of concerned believers.**

**2. The Lord empowers the lives of committed believers.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Just be willing to handle one rope!**

**2. Let's learn to work with one another.**

**Questions**

1. Describe the creative way the paralyzed man was brought to Christ.

2. How can some background knowledge of first century houses help us better understand this story?

3. *"Which is easier to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'?" Luke 5:23*

4. Each of the four friends was committed to helping their paralyzed friend. What would have been the result if they didn't function as a team? How is this applicable to us as believers?

**Answers**

1. The home where Jesus was teaching was crowded with standing room only. The paralyzed man's friends went up on the roof and cut an opening large enough to lower their friend down on his stretcher before Jesus.

2. First century homes had flat roofs, with outside staircases leading up to the roof. The roof consisted of some kind of ceiling tiles laid across interior walls or ceiling beams of logs and then an outer layer of clay and straw mixture. All of this was easily removed and replaced without any damage. Don't picture the friends vandalizing the home to get to Jesus!

3. If you're God, either statement is easy to say since God has the power to back it up. If you are man, neither statement is easy to say and back up with authority.

4. If one of the friends had dropped his rope, the poor paralyzed man would have slipped to the floor. So we as believers have to be willing to work together. If we spend our time and energy fighting against one another, we will never be able to help bring others to Jesus. .

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Just as the Lord honored the faith of the paralyzed man's friends, so He honors the faith of concerned believers today. Are you praying right now for a friend or relative who is not a believer? Continue to do what you can to bring that person to Jesus, think of creative ways to share the good news with them, and keep praying!

2. The Lord told the paralyzed man to "take up his bed and go home." The Lord did not pick up his bed for him, or ask others to carry it. Likewise, when the Lord heals us of sin, He doesn't take us to heaven immediately. He gives us the strength to deal with our problems in the right way. Discuss how you have seen this truth in your own life.

**Challenge**

1. Have you offered to help a "paralyzed" friend? You don't have to carry the whole load, but do your share and be willing to handle one rope.

# The Call of Matthew; Contrasts Between Judaism and Christianity
## Luke 5:27-39

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Accepting the gospel frees believers for celebration.**

**2. Understanding the gospel frees believers from legalism.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Let's leave everything as Levi did.**

**2. Let's be careful about our use of Old Testament terminology.**

**Questions**

1. Why were tax collectors so hated by the Jews?

2. How did Matthew respond to the Lord's invitation to follow Him?

3. What is the next thing we see Matthew doing in this passage?

4. How did the Lord respond to the Pharisees' question about fasting?

5. What does it mean that Matthew "left everything"?

**Answers**

1. The tolls collected on the international highway (the Via Maris from Egypt to Damascus) were collected under Herod Antipas of Galilee for the Roman government. Most Jews considered tax collectors unpatriotic, or even as traitors for collecting taxes for the hated Roman oppressors.

2. Matthew resigned from his position on the spot and followed Jesus.

3. He celebrated by throwing a reception dinner for Jesus in His home. Matthew did not hide the fact that he had become a follower of Jesus. He held a feast to introduce his friends, neighbors, and colleagues to Jesus.

4. He did not condemn fasting, but put it in its proper place. There was no need for the disciples to fast when the Lord was with them, but when the Lord would be taken from them, fasting would be appropriate.

5. It means his priorities were completely changed. His home and money were now used to serve the Lord and not himself. He was no longer entangled in the affairs of this life (2 Timothy 2:4).

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss the method of “Relationship Evangelism.” Why can this be such an effective technique?

2. Review the three parables in Luke 5:36-39. Each illustrates and emphasizes that with the coming of the gospel, the time of the Law and Judaism are past. A new order under grace has come.

**Challenge**

1. Have you left everything as Matthew did?

# Proper Use of the Sabbath; The Call of the Apostles
## Luke 6:1-16

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.**

**2. Important decisions demand much prayer.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Have we ever spent a whole night in prayer?**

**2. Let God's strength be seen in your weakness.**

**Questions**

1. Why were the scribes and Pharisees hoping Jesus would "break the Sabbath"?

2. How was the evil heart of the Pharisees exposed?

3. How do these Sabbath conflicts relate to the parables Jesus told in Luke 5:36-39?

4. Why did the Lord condone David's actions of eating the consecrated bread, which only the priests were to eat?

5. What is the difference between a disciple and an apostle?

**Answers**

1. So they could accuse Jesus of breaking their man-made rules about the Sabbath.

2. They reacted in anger when the Lord showed compassion and restored the man's withered hand.

3. The parables of the old and new cloth and the new wine in old wineskins, showed the contrast between the old teachings of Judaism and the new teachings of our Lord. These Sabbath confrontations are a perfect example.

4. Normally these laws were to be observed, but in a situation when people are in serious need of food, such a matter supercedes the ceremonial or civil law.

5. The Lord had many disciples, people who followed Him and believed on Him. Out of the many disciples the Lord chose twelve of them to be His special apostles and gave them power to do miracles.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath." This did not mean that Jesus should break the Sabbath, but as the Creator of the Sabbath, He had the right view and right interpretation of the Law concerning the Sabbath. Discuss this biblical truth: "The Creator is over what He has created."

2. Even Jesus, the Son of God, spent diligent time in prayer before making the important decision of selecting His disciples. What important decisions are you facing right now? Are you making prayer a significant part of your decision making process?

**Challenge**

1. Have you ever spent a whole night in prayer? Consider this the next time you face a major decision.

# Luke's Account of Christ's Sermon on the Mount
## Luke 6:17-38

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Kingdom living involves blessings and woes.**

**2. Kingdom living demands love and mercy.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't judge motives!**

**2. Don't give grudgingly!**

**3. Don't get too popular!**

**Questions**

1. Where is the more famous account of the Lord's Sermon on the Mount recorded?

2. List the parallel blessings and woes.

3. Was this sermon a gospel message?

4. What sort of Love is able to "love your enemy"?

5. Should "turn the other cheek" be our national defense policy?

**Answers**

1. Matthew 5-7

2. - Blessed are you who are poor – Woe to you who are rich
   - Blessed are you who hunger now – Woe to you who are well fed now
   - Blessed are you who weep now – Woe to you who laugh now
   - Blessed are you when men hate you – Woe to you when all men speak well of you

3. No, it was given to those who were already following Jesus and were preparing for the kingdom that the Lord was announcing as at hand. So in application today, this sermon is not a gospel message to the unsaved, but a message to believers in reference to righteous living and lifestyle.

4. This agape love – the denial of self in the interest of the other person – is the mark of the Christian. Only this God-given love enables the believer to fulfill the directives in this sermon.

5. No, these are moral qualities that should characterize those who have chosen to follow Jesus.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Are you living in light of the coming kingdom? The woes in verses 24-26 are addressed to believers who are not fully committed to the Lord. These half-way disciples will suffer loss of reward when the Kingdom is set up at the Lord's return.

2. Our society today emphasizes tolerance, saying we should never judge other people. But Scripture shows there is a time to judge: Governments must judge lawbreakers; Church leaders must judge immorality; Parents must judge and discipline their children. How does this passage relate? We are to judge behavior, but we are not to judge motives. Only God can see the heart and judge motives.

**Challenge**

1. John 15:18 indicates the world will reject us as it rejected Christ. If you as a believer are being widely accepted by unbelievers, perhaps you have watered down the truth of the gospel. *"Woe to you when all men speak well of you, For so did their fathers to the false prophets." Luke 6:26* So don't get too popular.

# The Lord Continues His Discourse
## Luke 6:39-49

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Godly leadership requires personal character.**

**2. Godly character requires personal obedience.**

**Practical Application**

**Pick your teachers carefully!**

**Questions**

1. Is this sermon the same as the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7?

2. Who was the audience for this sermon? Why is this important for interpretation?

3. Fill in the blanks: The extent to which you can be a _____ to others is determined by your _____ condition and personal _____.

4. What is the #1 requirement for godly character?

5. Who were the Old Testament examples given to illustrate the parable of the Wise Man and Foolish Man?

**Answers**

1. This may be Luke's abbreviated account of the Sermon on the Mount. Or it may be another sermon containing similar content.

2. This sermon was addressed to the disciples, although many in the multitude would have heard as well. This is not a gospel message to unbelievers, but a message concerning righteous living for believers.

3. blessing; spiritual; character

4. Obedience

5. Abraham and Lot, review their stories.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss how your personal character affects, and even determines, your fruit in ministry. Discuss why this principle is true: your spiritual condition determines the blessing you will be to others.

2. A consistent godly character is based on a lifetime of knowledge and obedience to God's Word. Two believers' lives may look the same from the outside, but the difference will be seen when the storms and floods of life come. How do difficult times reveal the true character of a person?

**Challenge**

1. Christ taught that a pupil will become like his teacher. Who is training you in your Christian life? Do these teachers have godly character and personal values that you want to copy?

# Our Lord's Power Over Disease and Death
## Luke 7:1-17

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The Lord is impressed with great faith.**

**2. The Lord is concerned about great need.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Let the Lord heal with a word from a distance.**

**2. Don't miss the spiritual picture of salvation from Nain.**

**Questions**

1. In His miracles, Jesus has shown His power over the 4 Ds. What are they?

2. How do Revelation 21:4 and Romans 8:22 relate to this discussion of the 4 Ds?

3. What made this Roman centurion not your typical Roman soldier?

4. What caused Jesus to marvel in verse 9?

5. When did the Lord tell the woman not to weep?

**Answers**

1. Disease, Death, Demonic, and Disaster

2. Revelation 21:4 describes the blessing of the eternal state for the believer. The 4 Ds will be gone forever because all these problems are the result of sin. Romans 8:22 says that the whole creation now groans because of sin. But the work of Christ on the cross dealt with the problem of sin for all creation.

3. He appears to be a convert to Judaism, who recognized that Jesus was the predicted Messiah. He was very generous to the Jewish people and paid to build a local synagogue. He was also atypical in that he cared for his sick slave.

4. Jesus was impressed by the great faith of the centurion. The centurion understood the power of authority, that the Lord had to simply speak a command and everything would obey – even whatever was causing his slave's sickness.

5. Before He raised her son back to life.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Great faith is not measured by great results, but by great trust in the Lord's power and authority, regardless of the results. Think back to a time in your life when you had to demonstrate great faith. What was the result?

2. The Lord had *compassion* on her. Reflect on the depth of this word. Imagine the Lord's expression and demeanor toward this hurting woman.

**Challenge**

1. Our God is a God of compassion. Are you hurting? Turn to Him to heal your hurting heart. Remember, time does not heal wounds – Christ heals wounds.

# The Lord's Comments on The Ministry John the Baptist
## Luke 7:18-35

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Believers today are greater than John the Baptist.**

**2. Unbelievers today are like spoiled brats.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Let's be children of wisdom.**

**Questions**

1. Where was John the Baptist at the time of this encounter?

2. John the Baptist sent two of his disciples to ask the Lord whether He was really the Messiah or were they still waiting for the Messiah. Why was John expressing these doubts?

3. What answer did John receive from the Lord?

4. Why did Jesus say there was no greater prophet than John the Baptist?

5. In what way is every Christian greater than John the Baptist?

**Answers**

1. John the Baptist was in prison at Machaeus, a stronghold built by Herod the Great.

2. John hadn't lost faith, but things were not turning out as John expected. John had introduced Jesus as the Messiah, and probably expected him to take over as king and set up the glorious earthly kingdom predicted in the Old Testament. Now John had been arrested and Rome was still in power.

3. The Lord quoted Messianic prophetic Scripture from Isaiah 35 and 61. In other words, He said, "Yes, I am the Messiah. The Messianic predictions are being fulfilled." Although events were not unfolding as John envisioned, his doubts were removed.

4. Not only was John the Baptist a man of great conviction, commitment, and sacrifice, he was greater than anyone before him because of his mission. He was the forerunner of the Messiah (see Malachi 3:1, quoted in verse 27).

5. Although all believers are not greater in character or mission, we are all greater in position. John the Baptist was not indwelt by the Holy Spirit as every believer is today. John the Baptist was not part of the Church, the Body of Christ, as we are. We are privileged to live in the fullness of times, now that Christ has come and His work on the cross is completed.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. There is nothing wrong with having honest doubts and questions. We all have them, especially when our good plans are not going as we expected. Like John the Baptist we should bring these honest doubts and questions to the Lord and let Him answer them. His answer will often come through Scripture. Have you ever seen this in your life?

2. Discuss how unbelievers in Jesus' day were like spoiled brats. Discuss how this is true of unbelievers today as well.

**Challenge**

1. The Lord and His Word are wisdom. When we follow the Lord and His Word we are children of wisdom. We should be proof of the truth of His teaching, because our lives should be radically changed.

# Jesus at the Home of Simon the Pharisee
## Luke 7:36-50

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Love for Jesus is evidence of faith in Jesus.**

**2. No love for Jesus is evidence of no faith in Jesus.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Give your ill-gotten B.C. gain to the Lord.**

**2. Don't get carried away with your historical background studies**

**Questions**

1. Is this the same event recorded in Matthew 26 and Mark 14?

2. Is this woman Mary Magdalene?

3. Why is it inaccurate to envision this woman sneaking under the table to anoint Jesus' feet?

4. Was Simon the Pharisee a hospitable host to our Lord?

5. What was the point of the parable in verses 41-42?

**Answers**

1. No, Matthew and Mark record the anointing of the Lord's head by Mary of Bethany during the last days of our Lord's ministry in the home of Simon the Leper, in the area of Jerusalem. Luke recorded the anointing of the Lord's feet by an unnamed woman in the Galilee region at least a year earlier, in the home of Simon the Pharisee.

2. There is no reason to identify this woman as Mary Magdalene. This unnamed sinful woman was presumably a former prostitute. Mary Magdalene had been demon-possessed, but not necessarily a prostitute. Mary Magdalene is mentioned in Luke 8, but there is no biblical connection made to the sinful woman here in Luke 7.

3. In that day, the dinner guests reclined on couches with their feet extended away from the table. Because there were lots of servants coming and going around the dinner table, it would have been easy for this woman to mingle among the servants and make her way to Jesus' feet.

4. No, Simon did not show Jesus the common courtesies of the day which included a kiss of greeting, washing the sandaled feet of road dust, and anointing the head with perfume because of the dry climate. Simon did not even provide water for Jesus to wash His own feet.

5. Just as the great debtor who realized how much he had been forgiven loved his benefactor more, so the sinful woman realized how much she had been forgiven and as a result loved the Lord who had forgiven her.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Love for Jesus is evidence of faith in Jesus. Discuss this principle. The sinful woman's demonstration of love was not the basis of her saving faith, but the evidence of her saving faith.

**Challenge**

1. Supposed you acquired a sum of money through illegitimate means before you became a Christian. What do you do with it now? Give it to the Lord.

# The Parables of the Sower and the Lamp
## Luke 8:1-21

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The parable of the sower emphasizes receiving the Word.**

**2. The parable of the lamp emphasizes passing on the Word.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Let's become members of the inner circle!**

**2. If you will not see, then you cannot see.**

**Questions**

1. How was the ministry of our Lord financed?

2. What is the main focus in the parable of the sower?

3. What happened to the seed that fell on hard ground? What is the spiritual picture?

4. What happened to the seed that fell on rocky ground? What is the spiritual picture?

5. What happened to the seed that fell among the thorns? What is the spiritual picture?

6. Does the parable of the lamp address the issue of salvation?

**Answers**

1. The Lord and His disciples moved from one city and village to another, preaching and teaching about the kingdom of God. The ministry was supported by free-will contributions and volunteers, such as Mary Magdalene and Joanna the wife of Herod's steward. These women were part of the large group of disciples that followed the Lord.

2. The main focus of the parable here is not salvation, but how the Word of God is received by the human heart.

3. The seed that fell on the hard ground was not received. In fact, the birds took it away. In the same way, Satan takes the Word of God away from those who have a hard heart and are not open to the things of God.

4. The rocky ground at first showed signs of life, but the test of time proved in the parable that the Word was not received into the heart.

5. The seed that fell among the thorns was choked out by the thorns as soon as it began to grow. In the same way, the thorns of worries, riches, and pleasures of this life keep the Word from begin received by many human hearts.

6. No, this parable addresses how we listen to the Word and pass it on as a light shining in a dark room.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Many people who have difficulty interpreting this parable start with the misconception that it addresses salvation and the possibility of losing salvation. Instead the focus of the parable is how the Word of God is received by human hearts. Review the types of soil and human hearts. Which one are you?

2. As it would have been foolish and unreasonable to place an oil lamp under a bed, so it is foolish for believers to hide the light that they have received from the Word. We should pass it on. What is the consequence if we neglect to pass on the Word?

**Challenge**

1. Are you a member of the inner circle? Not just a believer, but one who listens, hears, and does the Word of God?

# Our Lord's Power Over Nature and Satan
## Luke 8:22-39

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. All storms are under the sovereign control of God.**

**2. All spirits are under the sovereign control of God.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Your personal testimony is needed where God is not wanted.**

**Questions**

1. What kind of storm came up on the Sea of Galilee?

2. What is the answer to the disciples' question in verse 25?

3. Review the 4 Ds.

4. How were the deity and humanity of Christ shown in this miracle?

5. What are demons?

**Answers**

1. This was not a rain storm with thunder and lightning; this was a windstorm that caused huge waves to swamp the boat. These storms can happen quite suddenly on the Sea of Galilee.

2. The God of the universe! Jesus is God. As God, He created all things (Colossians 1:16) and has sovereign control over all things (Ephesians 1:11, Colossians 1:17).

3. Disease, Death, Demons, and Disasters

4. He fell asleep – He was fully Human. He calmed the storm – He was fully God.

5. Demons are evil spirits and part of the evil angelic ranks. Demons were not created evil, but they become evil when they joined in Satan's rebellion.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. The Lord said in Luke 8:22, *"Let us cross over to the other side of the lake,"* so there was no storm that could stop them. Likewise, there is no storm in this life that can thwart God's good purpose for your life. God controls everything – including the damaging effects of sin. In fact He can use all bad fallout from sin for His own purposes (Romans 8:28).

2. The people saw that the demon-possessed man had been made well, but they asked Jesus to leave their region. Jesus Christ continues to change lives today, but He is still asked to leave the public life. The powers that be cannot stop the good effects of your personal testimony. Your personal testimony is needed where God is not wanted.

**Challenge**

1. All storms are under the sovereign control of God. Apply this truth to the stormy challenges of your life.

# A Bleeding Woman is Healed and a Young Girl is Raised to Life
## Luke 8:40-56

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The touch of faith results in great peace.**

**2. The truth of Christ results in new life.**

**Practical Application**

**Let's testify and be taught.**

**Questions**

1. What is significant about these two miracles in the Scripture record?

2. What did Jairus probably know about Jesus' reputation?

3. Why did the woman want to touch the fringe on Jesus' cloak? Was this a superstitious act?

4. How is the raising of Jairus' daughter an illustration of salvation?

5. How is the raising of Jairus' daughter a picture of the spiritual rebirth of Israel in the last days?

**Answers**

1. They are always recorded together.

2. Jairus was an official of the synagogue on the west side of the Sea of Galilee, probably in Capernaum. He certainly had heard of the healing of the son of the Roman centurion who was stationed in Capernaum (Luke 7) and he probably saw the healing of the man with the withered hand in the synagogue (Luke 6).

3. The fringe was special on the garment of a Jewish rabbi or any Jew who was following the Law (see Numbers 15:37-40). The woman did not reach out in superstition, but in true faith.

4. Just as Jairus' daughter was raised to new life, we are raised to new life when we believe on Christ's sacrifice for us. *Ephesians 2:1, "And you He made alive who were dead in trespasses and sins."*

5. Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, and his daughter who had died picture Israel under Judaism – that is, without hope and dead to the promises of God and Christ. But in a coming day, Israel will turn back to the Lord in faith and receive the Messiah whom they rejected. As a result, Israel will be given a new heart and new life as they respond to the truth of Christ.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. The touch of faith results in great peace. Notice it is not, "The touch of faith results in great healing." Discuss the damaging effects of the teaching that those with enough faith will be healed from any sickness.

2. Read Ezekiel 36:26. Why is it so important to emphasize the future restoration of Israel?

**Challenge**

1. Remember the two essentials for the balanced Christian life illustrated in these miracles: testify and be taught!

# The Disciples' Preaching Mission; The Feeding of the 5,000
## Luke 9:1-17

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. There are divine principles for preaching the gospel.**

**2. There are divine principles for ministering to many.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't pass the point of no return.**

**2. Let's use our interruptions as opportunities**

**Questions**

1. In Matthew's account of this event, we learn that the Lord told the apostles to limit their ministry to the Jews only. Why would this be?

2. Who is the gospel of God's grace available to now?

3. List the four divine principles for preaching the gospel, as taught in this passage.

4. What is significant about the Feeding of the 5,000 in the gospel account?

5. What miracle occurred here in addition to the miracle of the Feeding of the 5,000?

**Answers**

1. Because at this point in our Lord's ministry the earthly kingdom of the Messiah that had been predicted in the Old Testament prophecies was being offered to Israel.

2. Because the king and His kingdom were rejected by Israel, the gospel of God's grace now goes out to the whole world. This was commanded by the Lord in His great commission in Matthew 28:19-20.

3. 1) Travel light
   2) Stay put
   3) Don't force-feed
   4) Report back

4. It is the only miracle (besides the Resurrection) recorded in all four gospels.

5. Not only was there abundant food to feed over 5,000 people, there were 12 basketfuls leftover when everyone had eaten their fill!

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Review and apply the divine principles for preaching the gospel.

2. The Feeding of the 5,000 shows four divine principles for ministering to a large number of people. Review and discuss these principles:

Give bread

Get organized

Glorify Christ

Gather leftovers

**Challenge**

1. How do you respond when life doesn't go according to plan? Interruptions—whether minor inconveniences or major life upheavals—are frustrating, but they're also powerful opportunities to reflect Christ. Will you choose to see them as divine appointments to serve, minister, and share the gospel, just as Jesus did?

# Peter's Confession of Faith; The Mount of Transfiguration
## Luke 9:18-36

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The Confession of Peter marked a turning point in our Lord's past earthly ministry.**

**2. The Mount of Transfiguration mirrored the blessed conditions of our Lord's future earthly kingdom.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Let's not make the same mistake that Peter made.**

**2. Let's not save our life only to lose it.**

**Questions**

1. Who did the multitudes think Jesus was?

2. What was the correct answer to the Lord's question?

3. Why did the Lord warn the disciples not to tell anyone about Him being the Christ?

4. What shocking news did Jesus reveal to the disciples next?

5. How was the Lord's promise in verse 27 fulfilled on the Mount of Transfiguration?

**Answers**

1. Some said John the Baptist raised from the dead. Some said that Elijah had come, based on the Malachi 4 prophecy. And others said one of the other Old Testament prophets had risen from the dead. Notice that the promised Messiah was not one of the answers that people were giving.

*2.* Peter had the right answer, *"The Christ of God"* – He was the promised Messiah of the Old Testament prophecies who is God Himself.

3. Because nothing was to interrupt our Lord's path to the cross.

4. *"The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day." Luke 9:22*

5. The Mount of Transfiguration was a microcosm of the coming millennial kingdom that our Lord will set up when He returns to this earth. The Lord will be there in His glorified body. Moses, representing all saints who have died will be part of Christ's earthly kingdom. Elijah, representing all the living saints at the time of the rapture will be there. And Peter, James, and John, representing living saints that survive the Tribulation Period and enter the earthly kingdom of our Lord, will be there.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss the turning point that occurred in our Lord's earthly ministry. He turned from proclaiming that the kingdom of God was at hand, to speaking of His coming death and resurrection. Why this change of emphasis?

2. The kingdom was rejected by Israel, but it will be realized someday. When will this take place?

**Challenge**

1. Let's not save our life only to lose it. Are you selfishly living your life only for yourself and your possessions? Or are you experience the joy of living and making your life count forever?

# A Demon-Possessed Boy is Healed; Teaching on Discipleship
## Luke 9:37-50

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Discipleship involves mountain top and valley experiences.**

**2. Discipleship demands humble and tolerant attitudes.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Your heart speaks louder than your words or actions.**

**2. Don't let self-importance keep you from scriptural insight.**

**Questions**

1. What two unbiblical extremes do believers take on the subject of demon-possession?

2. What happened the day before the disciples met this demon-possessed boy?

3. Why couldn't the disciples cast the demon out of the little boy?

4. What did Jesus have to remind the disciples of in verses 43-44?

5. Is there a contradiction between Mark 9:50 and Luke 11:23?

**Answers**

1. One extreme is to attribute every illness, disease, and physical problem that a person has to demons. The other unbiblical extreme is to deny the reality of demon possession and try to explain all demon possession problems as only psychological disorders or emotional stress.

2. Peter, James, and John had a mountain top experience with the Lord on the Mount of Transfiguration. They saw the Lord revealed in His glory.

3. We don't know for sure. Maybe they tried to do it in their own power, with not enough power and not enough faith. Maybe they were puffed up with their new power and authority over the demons and had to be humbled.

4. Even though the people were marveling at His miracles, the leaders of the nation were going to reject Him.

5. In reference to the Person and Work of Christ and the matter of salvation there can be no neutrality. A person who is not for Christ is against Christ. In reference to Christian service, however, a person doing something in the name of Christ is not against you, but is for you.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Remember a mountain top experience in your Christian life. Did a valley experience shortly follow? Discuss why discipleship has to involve both mountaintop and valley experiences.

2. Discipleship demands humility. It is not always having the most glamorous jobs and serving the Lord in the spotlight. Think of some of the "unglamorous" job that must be done around your local church in order for the ministry to take place. How can you get involved in some of these?

**Challenge**

1. You have heard, "Actions speak louder than words." But words and actions can mask a person's real motives. God is omniscient; He knows everything including the thoughts of our hearts. To God, your heart speaks louder than your words or actions.

# The Samaritans Reject the Lord; Responses of Would-Be Disciples
## Luke 9:51-62

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The Son of Man is our model for preaching.**

**2. The Son of Man is our model for priorities.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Let the dead bury the dead.**

**Questions**

1. What new revelation was made in Jesus' ministry in Luke 9?

2. Why did most Jews hate the Samaritans?

3. How did the Samaritans respond to the Lord and His disciples?

4. Is it wrong for missionaries or those involved in full-time ministry to own a home (verse 58)?

5. What was Jesus' point when He said, "Let the dead bury their own dead"?

**Answers**

1. The Lord began to reveal to His disciples that the earthly kingdom they expected was not going to be set up at this time, because the nation was rejecting their Messiah and king.

2. The Samaritans were considered a mixed race by the Jews. Their race began in the 8th century B.C. when the Jews of the northern tribes intermarried with the non-Jews that the Assyrians brought into the land.

3. The Samaritans did not welcome and receive the Lord with hospitality because they were Jewish and were on their way to Jerusalem where the true Temple of the Lord was located.

4. No, Jesus' point here is that the normal expected comforts of life *may* have to be given up if your priorities are in order as a disciple.

5. He meant, let the spiritually dead bury the physically dead. Unbelievers can take care of the normal and necessary requirements of life, such as burying the dead, but unbelievers can't proclaim the kingdom of God. Only those who are spiritually alive can do that.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. James and John were full of fiery zeal, but it was not channeled in the right direction. Have you ever seen a preacher preach with fiery zeal, but his message was more intent on sending people to Hell than rescuing or delivering them? Look at the Lord's example for balance on this issue.

2. The three would-be disciples each made an excuse for not following the Lord when the demanding terms of discipleship were explained. In each case it was a matter of priorities. Share some of your priorities that often get in the way of your service to the Lord.

**Challenge**

1. Do you recognize your highest priority in life as representing the Lord and His kingdom? You will have many other responsibilities, but set your priorities in order and the rest will fall in place.

# The Seventy Disciples Sent Out with the Gospel of the Kingdom
## Luke 10:1-24

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The kingdom of God has drawn near.**

**2. The power of Satan has been broken.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't confuse IQ with insight.**

**Questions**

1. Why did the Lord command the disciples to stay in the same house and not move from house to house in any one location?

2. What was the significance of shaking off the dust from their sandals whenever they were not welcome?

3. Where did the Lord send the teams of disciples (verse 1)?

4. The king and His offer of the kingdom had already been rejected by a number of the leading towns in the Galilee area. Why did the Lord send His disciples to preach the kingdom of God elsewhere?

5. Why did the seventy disciples return with joy?

**Answers**

1. This way the disciples could concentrate on their mission and not on their accommodations.

2. Wherever their message was not received the disciples were to shake the dust from their sandals to show that the possibility of fellowship with those people had ended.

3. He sent them primarily into villages in the area of Judea and Perea, which He would pass through as He slowly made His way to Jerusalem.

4. To give the cities of Judea an opportunity to receive the king and the offer of the kingdom. But sadly, we know that the Lord was refused and rejected. Israel crucified her promised Messiah.

5. Because they were experiencing the joy of being involved in the Lord's service.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss the proclamation that the kingdom of God had come near. The Messiah had arrived and was offering the promised kingdom to His people. But was the kingdom received? When will the kingdom be received and established?

2. God is pleased to hide truth from the worldly wise and intelligent skeptics and reveal His truth to believers. Have you noticed that even baby believers studying the Bible, can have more insight into world affairs and the reality of life than the world's most critical thinkers? Truth about God is only gained and gleaned form insight into God's revealed Word.

**Challenge**

1. We can rejoice that Satan is humiliated when his demons are resisted. One day we will rejoice to see Satan's ultimate defeat by the hand of Christ.

# The Parable of the Good Samaritan; Mary and Martha
## Luke 10:25-42

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The story of the Good Samaritan has an obvious meaning.**

**2. The story of the Good Samaritan has a deeper meaning.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't let your service keep you from worship.**

**Questions**

1. The lawyer correctly summed up the Law, but then how did he try to justify himself?

2. Who fits in the Lord's definition of neighbor?

3. Who or what do the priest and Levite in the story represent?

4. Why did God give the Law?

5. How is the Law like a mirror?
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**Answers**

1. By asking “Who is my neighbor?” Apparently, he must have thought that he was successfully keeping the law.

2. A neighbor includes anyone who comes across your path in life who is in need –not just your friend, colleague, or person living next door to you.

3. They represent the Old Testament Law which cannot save a person.

4. God gave the Law to show what sin is and how God’s moral standards are so high that no one can keep the Law (see Galatians 3:19-24).

5. A mirror can show us our dirty face, but it cannot wash our dirty face. So the Law has no power to save us –it can only condemn us. It forces us to see that our only hope is Christ.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss the obvious meaning of the story of the Good Samaritan. Do you need to expand your definition of “neighbor”?

2. Discuss the deeper meaning of the parable of the Good Samaritan. Review who each of the characters represent. What is the application to your life?

**Challenge**

1. Mary and Martha give us a lesson on priorities. Do you, as Martha, get so caught up in your service to the Lord that you lose sight of what is really important? Don’t let your service keep you from worship.

# The Lord's Prayer
## Luke 11:1-13

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The Lord gave believers a pattern for praying.**

**2. The Lord gave believers a principle for praying.**

**3. The Lord gave believers a promise for praying.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't pray unscriptural prayers.**

**2. Let's teach the importance of prayer by our example.**

**Questions**

1. What would be a better name for "The Lord's Prayer"?

2. Does verse 7 imply that God is bothered with our prayers and only reluctantly answers them when we are persistent?

3. What is the point of verses 11-12?

4. What is the best gift that God gives His children?

5. Do we need to pray for the Holy Spirit to be given to us?

**Answers**

1. The Disciple's Prayer

2. First, this is not a parable, but an illustration. The man does not represent God, as in a parable. This is an illustration that the Lord gave to illustrate the principle, "Don't give up when you pray just because you don't get an immediate answer. Continue to pray."

3. God promises that He will only give us good gifts. He will never deceive us with the gifts that He gives. He will never give us gifts that might scare us or harm us.

4. The Holy Spirit, who indwells your heart at salvation

5. No, verse 13 was spoken to the disciples before the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Since Pentecost, all believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Ephesians 1:13).

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Go back through this model prayer phrase by phrase and discuss how each part can be a pattern for our prayers.

2. As believers today, we don't have to pray for the Holy Spirit to be given to us. But we can pray to be led by the Holy Spirit, and taught by the Holy Spirit, and empowered and enabled by the Holy Spirit. These prayers would be in line with Scripture.

**Challenge**

1. If you say that prayer is important, do you model its importance in your life? We should both realize the important of prayer and teach the importance of prayer.

# Israel's Rejection of the Messiah
## Luke 11:14-32

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Israel rejected Christ by attributing His miracles to the power of Satan.**

**2. Israel rejected Christ by demanding heavenly signs as proof of His claims.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Beware of reformation without conversion.**

**Questions**

1. What principles about demons can we learn from this case of the demon-possessed man?

2. What does "Beelzebub" mean?

3. What did the Lord mean when He said, *"the kingdom of God has come upon you"* (verse 20)?

4. How did Jesus respond when a woman in the crowd called out for a blessing on His mother?

5. What is ironic about the people's request for a heavenly sign?

**Answers**

1. Demons are real and they can cause physical problems. Of course, this does not mean that all speech problems are caused by demons.

2. The name literally means, “Lord of Flies.” It was one of the names the Jews used for Satan, the ruler of the demons.

3. These miracles testified to the fact that the king had arrived. Would Israel receive the king and the kingdom He offered?

4. The Lord did not denounce Mary in any way, but He showed clearly that being in His spiritual family was far more important than physical family relationships.

5. They had witnessed Jesus performing signs and miracle for years, including just casting out a demon from a mute man!

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Review and discuss the two logical arguments the Lord used to refute the lie that He used satanic power to cast out demons.

2. Miraculous signs will never convince the close-minded unbeliever. In fact, unbelievers will deny clear evidence about Scripture if their hearts are not opened to the truth of God. That it why it is critical for our witness to unbelievers to be surrounded by prayer for the Holy Spirit to open their spiritual eyes.

**Challenge**

1. Many people have sought to reform and “straighten up their lives” by their own power. But if it is not a true conversion, which replaces the old ways of life with feeding on the Word of God, meeting with believers for fellowship, and serving the Lord, that person can quickly fall back into their old way of life and worse. Beware of reformation without conversion.

# Two Parables about Light; The Scribes and Pharisees Denounced
## Luke 11:33-54

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The Lord commended the light and sight of believers.**

**2. The Lord denounced the legalism and hypocrisy of unbelievers.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Use a meal to discuss an important matter.**

**Questions**

1. There are many passages in the four gospels that are similar to one another. Are these different versions of the same event?

2. What is the slight difference in emphasis between Matthew 5:14-16 and Luke 11:33-36?

3. What was the application of verse 34 for the Lord's audience?

4. What prompted the Lord's denouncement of the Scribes and Pharisees (verse 38)?

5. Why did the Lord mention the murders from Abel to Zechariah?

**Answers**

1. Sometimes they are accounts of the same event, but sometimes they may be records of different events. For example, if Jesus rebuked the Scribes and Pharisees on two different occasions, there would probably be a lot of overlap of what He said each time.

2. The emphasis in Matthew is an exhortation for us as believers to let our light shine. The emphasis in Luke seems to be that the Lord as the Light had come and the Scribe and Pharisees saw the light but rejected it.

3. The Light of the World had come, but Israel had bad eyesight. They were not receiving the Light and thus they were in spiritual darkness and could not see.

4. A Pharisee was surprised that Jesus did not wash His hands before the meal. This was a ceremonial washing and it was not commanded in the Law. So the Lord used this occasion to denounce the legalism and hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees.

5. Not to cover all murders from A-Z! Abel, who was murdered by his brother Cain, was the first murder victim in history. The murder of Zechariah a priest, recorded in 2 Chronicles 24, comes at the end of the Hebrew Old Testament.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. How is your spiritual eyesight? If you have good spiritual eyesight, then you can and will receive the true Light of this World, the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Review the three woes the Lord pronounced on the Pharisees. What were the heart issues that the Pharisees ignored while keeping the appearance of the Law? The Lord also pronounced three woes on the Scribes, the lawyers of that day.

**Challenge**

1. Jesus did not accept the invitation to the Pharisee's house just to eat and enjoy small talk. He took the opportunity to discuss an important manner, and we can do the same.

# Teaching about Hypocrisy and the Courage to Testify
## Luke 12:1-12

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Don't be a hypocrite, because everything will be revealed.**

**2. Don't be afraid, because everything will be provided.**

**3. Don't be a coward, because everything will be reviewed.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't use Luke 12:11-12 as your excuse for not being prepared.**

**Questions**

1. Give one possible reason the crowd which followed Jesus had grown so large.

2. Who was the Lord addressing in this passage?

3. Many people have a paralyzing fear of death. What important truth about death is taught in verses 4-5?

**Answers**

1. Most likely the word had spread that the Lord had denounced the self-righteous Scribes and Pharisees in no uncertain terms with scathing rebukes. The common people would have loved it, just as we do today when self-righteous hypocrites are publicly denounced.

2. He was specifically addressing His disciples, although the multitude would have heard, and many in the mixed crowd were followers of the Lord to one degree or another.

3. Death is as far as the opposition can chase you, after that you are solely in God's hands. The implication of verse 5 is that the opposition will be cast into hell.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. "*For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known" Luke 12:2.* Is this a comforting truth to you, or a terrifying fact? Your answer to this may depend upon your personal level of integrity.

2. Luke 12:8-9 have application to both salvation and discipleship. In the matter of discipleship, we can boldly confess the Lord with our testimony or we can deny the Lord in our words and deeds. Our lives as disciples will be reviewed before the judgment seat of Christ. Read and discuss Romans 14:10 and 2 Corinthians 5:10.

3. Review this excellent note from the Living Application Bible:
"We disown Jesus when we:

1) hope no one will think we are Christians
2) decide *not* to speak up for what is right
3) are silent about our relationship with God
4) blend into society
5) accept our culture's non-Christian values.

By contrast we acknowledge him when we:

1) live moral, upright, Christ-honoring lives
2) look for opportunities to share our faith with others
3) help others in need
4) take a stand for justice
5) love others
6) acknowledge our loyalty to Christ
7) use our lives and resources to carry out his desires rather than our own."

**Challenge**

1. Not one sparrow is forgotten by God, and you are of much more value to Him than sparrows. Take a few moments today and listen to Him remind you of how valuable you are to Him.

# Warning against Greed and Materialism - Provision is Promised
## Luke 12:13-34

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Those who build bigger barns will be disappointed with temporal loss.**

**2. Those who seek kingdom values will be delighted with eternal reward.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't use Luke 12:24 as your excuse for not working.**

**Questions**

1. What prompted the Lord to tell the Parable of the Rich Fool?

2. The reasoning of the Rich Man in verses 17-19 sounds familiar, and even logical. So why did the Lord call him a fool?

3. In what areas are you a materialist?

4. What should the Rich Fool have done instead of building bigger barns?

5. Is it wrong to need food, drink, and clothing?

**Answers**

1. Some man in the crowd called out about a family dispute regarding a will. The Lord used the occasion to warn his disciples and those listening about the dangers of greed, covetousness, and materialism.

2. The man was presuming that he would live for many years. He also presumed he could control his wealth in the future. The man's basic problem was that he left God out of the picture. The man was not rich toward God.

3. Answers will vary.

4. He should have given the money away, to the Lord (verse 33).

5. No, God knows that you need these things (verse 30). And He will certainly provide these basic necessities if you are seeking His kingdom first (verse 31).

**Discuss / Consider**

1. You can think you have your life under control, but have you included God in the picture? Besides working for earthly riches, how are you working to become rich toward God?

2. Are you a worrier? In Luke 12:22 the Lord *commands* us not to worry. Review the several reasons believers don't have to worry.

**Challenge**

1. Be careful not to pull Scripture out of context to prove a certain point. Luke 12:24 in no way justifies laziness and not working. See 2 Thessalonians 3:10.

# The Importance of Being Ready for the Lord's Return
## Luke 12:35-59

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. There will be differences of punishment in Hell.**

**2. There are divisions of families on earth.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Get right with God before it is too late!**

**2. Don't use Luke 12:59 as a proof-text for purgatory.**

**Questions**

1. Review the aspect of a First Century wedding which illustrates the importance of being ready for the Lord's return at any time.

2. What was the Lord's main point with this parable?

3. What happened to the faithful and sensible servants in the next section?

4. What happened to the unfaithful servants?

5. What had to happen before God's fire of judgment could take place (verses 49-50)?

**Answers**

1. After the wedding feast, the groom would return home with his bride. He expected his servants to be watching and waiting for him – even if he didn't arrive until late at night or in the wee hours of the morning.

2. All believers should be watching, waiting, and ready for His return. His return will be sudden and unexpected – like a groom returning home with his bride, or a thief arriving unannounced.

3. They were rewarded and given responsibilities. So there will be responsibilities in the Millennial Kingdom that our Lord will set up when He returns to this earth.

4. These professing servants prove by their actions that they are unbelievers. They will be consigned to a place with the rest of the unbelievers – namely, Hell.

5. The Lord Himself would undergo a baptism of judgment at the cross –the judgment of God against our sins.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Just as there will be difference of reward in heaven, so there will be difference of punishment in hell. The basis for punishment will be how much knowledge and light a person had. This is an important apologetic point to know if you come upon unbelievers who say it is unfair for Adolph Hitler and their nice (but unbelieving) little old neighbor lady to both be in Hell.

2. People who say that Jesus was just a good man who came to preach peace on earth do not understand the reality of Luke 12:51. Although it is sad when families are divided because of Christ, it should not be surprising. What should our attitude be towards families suffering in this way?

**Challenge**

1. God is not only a God of love, but He is a God of justice and He must deal with the sin of unbelief. Get right with God before it is too late!

# The Parable of the Fig Tree; Healing a Crippled Woman
## Luke 13:1-17

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The Parable of the Fig Tree predicted the future of Israel.**

**2. The healing of the crippled woman exposed the hypocrisy of Israel.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Use tragic events as an opportunity to teach the Word.**

**Questions**

1. What two tragic events did the Lord address here?

2. What was the general opinion about why these people died?

3. How did the miracle of the healing of the crippled woman portray the spiritual condition of Israel?

4. Was there anyone in Israel who was not spiritually crippled?

5. What is the purpose of the Lord's miracles?

**Answers**

1. One was an atrocity in which Pilate, for some unknown reason, slaughtered some Galileans who had come to Jerusalem to sacrifice at the Temple. The other tragic event was the collapse of a tower which killed 18 people.

2. To the self-righteous way of thinking, those who were killed were not innocent, and must have been greater sinners than everyone else.

3. In the context of the sinful hypocrisy of Israel, the nation is seen as spiritually fruitless and spiritually crippled.

4. Yes, there was a godly remnant of Jews during our Lord's day who repented and turned from crippled Judaism to the Lord.

5. All the miracles of the Lord were demonstrations of the power of God, and were also designed to teach.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Review the Parable of the Fig Tree. What do the various aspects of the parable represent? Historically, the "fig tree was cut down" in 70 A.D., when Rome destroyed Jerusalem.

2. Tragic events seem to happen with increasing frequency these days. These events prompt people to ask, "Why?" Are you ready to give an answer? Discuss the number of answers in Scripture, including the one the Lord used here: Tragic events are a wake-up call for everyone to get right with God.

**Challenge**

1. The hypocritical opponents of Christ cared more for the welfare of their animals than for a poor woman who had been handicapped for 18 years. There are many people who have the same values today. Do you recognize the value of people as far superior to that of animals?

# The Kingdom of God Described Following Rejection
## Luke 13:18-35

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed and like leaven in flour.**

**2. The kingdom of God has an open door, but will have a closed door.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't confuse striving with doing good works.**

**Questions**

1. What did we learn about the spiritual condition of Israel in the first half of Luke 13?

2. Where was the Lord Jesus headed?

3. What is the main point in both the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven?

4. Is the kingdom of God the same as the Church? Define each.

5. When is the door of the kingdom open, when will it be closed?

**Answers**

1. The Lord predicted in the Parable of the Fig Tree that the nation of Israel would be cut down because of her unbelief. Her crippled spiritual condition because of hypocrisy was vividly portrayed in the crippled woman.

2. In Luke 9:51, He steadfastly set His face toward Jerusalem, and no threat from Herod or persuasion from the Jews would keep Him from there.

3. Growth, both good and bad

4. No. The Church is composed of all true believers who are called out of this world to become the body and bride of Christ. The kingdom of God, at this present time, is Christendom. It encompasses the entire realm, wherever Christianity has spread. It includes true believers and false professors.

5. The door is open now, as people are invited to accept Christ. When the Lord returns to set up His kingdom on earth, the door will be shut, and it will be too late to repent.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss the important distinction between the Church and Christendom. Do you see this in the world today? What are the negative results of confusing the two?

**Challenge**

1. No one drifts into the kingdom of God. You must strive to overcome all the barriers and ensnarements that would keep you away from the narrow door of Christ.

# Teaching on Sabbath Laws and Social Conduct
## Luke 14:1-14

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The Lord taught the Pharisees the right view of Sabbath law.**

**2. The Lord taught the Pharisees the right rules of social conduct.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Are you moving up in God's kingdom?**

**2. Seek service not status.**

**Questions**

1. Why did this leader of the Pharisees invite Jesus to dine at his home?

2. What is dropsy?

3. Did the Old Testament Mosaic Law forbid practicing medicine on the Sabbath?

4. What did Deuteronomy 5:14 require on the Sabbath?

5. When viewed as a parable, what does the wedding feast represent?

**Answers**

1. Probably this whole invitation was a set-up to find fault with Jesus for healing on the Sabbath.

2. Dropsy is a condition where excess fluid is retained in the tissues, and therefore there is swelling in various parts of the body.

3. No, it was the rabbinic tradition of Judaism that wrongly forbade this.

4. That people and animals were to have a day of rest. But no one, including the Pharisees, would consider rescuing a person or animal as work in violation of the Sabbath.

5. The feast represents the future Messianic banquet when the Lord returns. Humility now is the key to promotion and reward then in the kingdom.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. As believers, we are not under the Sabbath law. But God's principle of a day of rest is still a good idea. Discuss the idea of setting aside a specific time of rest in the midst of the hustle and bustle of life.

2. Review the rules of social conduct that the Lord taught the Pharisees. What are some practical ways that you can implement these into your life?

**Challenge**

1. Most people are concerned about moving up in society. We should care more about moving up in God's kingdom. You move up in God's kingdom by taking the lower place and humbly serving others.

# The Difference Between a Believer and a Disciple
## Luke 14:15-35

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Becoming a believer means accepting the invitation and not living a life of excuses.**

**2. Becoming a disciple means counting the cost and living a life of sacrifice.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't be thrown out as a disciple.**

**Questions**

1. What was the point of the Parable of the Great Banquet?

2. As represented in the parable, who was first invited to the banquet?

3. Who refused the invitation? Who accepted the invitation?

4. Who was the invitation extended to next?

5. What is the point of Luke 14:26?

6. Are verses 34-35 saying you can lose your salvation?

**Answers**

1. The blessings of the kingdom are wonderful, but not everyone who is invited will be present.

2. The Jewish people were invited when the Lord came and announced that the kingdom of heaven was at hand.

3. The self-righteous Jewish leaders refused to accept the invitation. Many such as Mary Magdalene and Zacchaeus were accepting Christ as Messiah. But still there was room.

4. The invitation to enter and enjoy the blessings of God's kingdom would go out to the Gentiles with the Great Commission to preach the gospel worldwide.

5. To become a true disciple, the Lord must be number one above all else – including your own family.

6. No, true believers can never be thrown out of God's family. These verses are talking about our testimony before the world as disciples of Jesus Christ.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Review the excuses that people used in the parable to refuse the invitation to the banquet. Discuss how people use these same excuses today to refuse and neglect the invitation of the gospel.

2. Discuss the difference between becoming a Christian and being a disciple. True salvation costs us nothing. True discipleship costs us everything.

**Challenge**

1. If you claim to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and then lose your testimony because of compromise and failure, the world will write you off and throw you out. Don't let the world throw out your testimony.

# The Parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin
## Luke 15:1-10

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The parable of the lost sheep emphasizes our wayward way and the Savior's love.**

**2. The parable of the lost coin emphasizes our dead condition and the Holy Spirit's mission.**

**Practical Application**

**1. He would come, even if you were the only one!**

**Questions**

1. What is the common theme in each of the three parables in Luke 15?

2. Who do these lost items represent?

3. How does Isaiah 53:6 relate to this passage?

4. Who do the 99 sheep represent? Where are they at the end of the parable?

5. If the woman in the parable of the lost coin represents the Church, then explain the teaching here.

**Answers**

1. Someone is seeking to find something that is lost – the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son.

2. The Lord gave these parables to show that everyone is lost and needs to be found. Some knew they were lost, like the tax collectors and sinners. But others did not know they were lost, such as the self-righteous Scribes and Pharisees.

3. Isaiah describes us as dumb lambs who wander astray. But the suffering Servant of Isaiah 53, our Lord Jesus Christ, is the seeking Shepherd of Luke 15.

4. The 99 sheep who supposedly did need not repentance represent the self-righteous Scribes and Pharisees. They are left out in the wilderness; only the lost and found sheep is brought to the Shepherd's home.

5. If the woman represents the Church, then the parable portrays the Holy Spirit's present mission of working through the Church with the lamp of God's Word to search out those who are lost.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Describe the shepherd's treatment of the lost sheep when he is found. This is how the love of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is shown to us. The Lord rejoices over you!

2. The coin was lost in the dark and dust of the 1st century home. Discuss how we also were lost and dead in this dark world until God found us and brought us into His marvelous light. Read 1 Peter 2:9.

**Challenge**

1. If you were the only sinner on earth, the eternal Son of God would still have left heaven, become a Man, and gone to the cross to die that shameful death for you!

# The Parable of the Prodigal Son
## Luke 15:11-32

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The parable of the Lost Son emphasizes our rebellious attitude and the Father's forgiveness.**
**1) The younger son represents unbelievers who are rebellious, but repent.**

**2) The older brother represents unbelievers who are self-righteous and do not repent.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Praise the Lord for reconciliation!**

**Questions**

1. Why was it insulting for the son to ask for his inheritance from his father?

2. The father agreed to give the son his inheritance. What does this teach us about God, our Father?

3. Does the younger son best represent a lost believer who becomes a Christian, or a backsliding Christian who is restored? First answer these two questions:

4. What did the Lord have in mind when He gave the parable?

5. To whom did the Lord give the parable?

6. How was the older brother a depiction of the Scribes and Pharisees?

7. What is reconciliation?

**Answers**

1. In that day the inheritance was divided up after the father passed away. For a Jewish son to ask for his inheritance ahead of time was the same as wishing that his father were dead.

2. God does not manipulate us, but lets us exercise our own free will – even when we have rebellious, runaway attitudes.

3. There were two distinct groups in the audience when the Lord gave this parable (vs 1-2) – tax collectors and open sinners, and the self-righteous Scribes and Pharisees.

The Lord had both groups in mind when He gave the three parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. Remember, the Lord was speaking to Jewish people, who are God's special people, but both groups were lost and needed to be saved.

So the best application of this parable for today is not for backsliders, but for lost unbelievers needing to be saved.

4. The older brother was angry that grace had been shown to his younger brother, just as the self-righteous Scribes and Pharisees hated the fact that the Lord showed mercy to sinners.

5. Reconciliation means to be brought back into a beautiful, harmonious relationship with God.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Did you ever have a "younger son" attitude? Were you a rebellious runaway before you came to your senses? If so, what caused you to come to your senses and return home? What reception did you receive from your Heavenly Father?

2. Have you ever had an "older brother" mentality? Have you resented someone who had come to faith and seemed to "get off scott-free" from the consequences of their past mistakes? How could you approach this person with the joy and forgiveness of the father instead?

**Challenge**

1. As believers, we are not only forgiven, but we are also reconciled to the Father! Praise the Lord for reconciliation!

# The Parable of the Unjust Steward
## Luke 16:1-9

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Believers are not commended for dishonesty.**

**2. Believers are commended for prudence.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't be a financial failure!**

**Questions**

1. Explain in your own words what occurred in the parable of the unjust steward.

2. What is the shocking part of this story?

3. List some common misunderstandings about this parable.

4. Explain the statement in verse 8, *"For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light."*

5. What does it mean to be prudent?

**Answers**

1. A certain rich man had a financial planner to care for his estate finances. It was reported to the estate owner that his financial manager was squandering the estate's property. The manager was told to write his letter of resignation, because he was being terminated as an employee. The shrewd manager quickly called his master's creditors and reduced their bills, so that they would provide for him when he lost his job.

2. That the wheeling and dealing manager was praised by the estate owner!

3. 1) It seems that dishonesty is being commended.
   2) It seems that the master praising unrighteousness, in the parable, is the Lord.
   3) It seems that "the ends justify the means" is being taught here.

4. The Lord is commending the wise and shrewd use of money in view of the future. You can't take it with you! Believers, who are sons of light, sometimes do stupid things with their money!

5. To be prudent means to think ahead and use good judgment and common sense in handling practical matters.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss how several misconceptions can be cleared up if we think of this story not as a parable, but as a true story used to illustrate how people of this world deal with each other when it comes to money.

2. Discuss the application in verse 9, "You can't take it with you," but you can exchange your money for souls who will greet you when you reach heaven! How are you using your money to help win souls for Christ?
If you would like to learn more about this topic, you can read Dave Reid's Devotion for Growing Christians entitled "Smart Money."

**Challenge**

1. How do you transfer funds to your heavenly bank account? By giving to the Lord's work now, where you see souls being saved and blessed. You will be welcomed into heaven by people who are there because you gave, and you will never regret it!

# Further Teaching about the Use of Money
## Luke 16:10-18

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The faith of a believer is tested by money and trust.**

**2. The heart of an unbeliever is revealed by the Law and the Gospel.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Take your marriage vows seriously.**

**Questions**

1. What is the topic of Luke 16? Who is it addressed to?

2. Review the prudent use of money, as taught in the parable of the unjust steward.

3. What is the moral principle in verse 10 that holds true for human character without exception?

4. What is the spiritual application of this principle (verses 11)?

5. Why did the Pharisees scoff at the Lord's teaching about money?

6. How are verses 16-18 related to the discussion about money?

**Answers**

1. Luke 16 contains our Lord's teaching about money – specifically the right view of money and the right use of money. The Lord was speaking specifically to His disciples (verse 1), so this is applicable for believers today.

2. The prudent use of money is to use it now to prepare for the future in heaven, by supporting the Lord's work.

3. He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.

4. If you can't be trusted with money, then you can't be trusted with spiritual responsibilities.

5. The Pharisees loved money and even viewed it as a sign of God's blessing. (Sound familiar?)

6. The heart of the unbelieving, money-loving Pharisees was revealed by their attitude toward God's Law and the Gospel of the kingdom.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss the "faithful in little, faithful in much" principle. Think of some mundane areas of life where you could apply this, such as picking up a piece of trash after you miss the wastebasket.

2. If you can't be trusted with money, then you can't be trusted with spiritual responsibilities (verse 11). Is this a sobering teaching to you? Are you being responsible with your personal finances? Are you seeking to expand your ministry, but are not taking care of your primary responsibility to support your family?

**Challenge**

1. The Lord took marriage vows very seriously. God has not changed His moral laws. Take your marriage vows seriously.

# The Rich Man and Lazarus
## Luke 16:19-31

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Hell is a place of surprising reversal.**

**2. Hell is a place of painful retribution.**

**3. Hell is a place of conscious remembrance.**

**4. Hell is a place of no return.**

**5. Hell is a place of awful realization.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't wish that you could do miracles!**

**Questions**

1. What is the context of Luke 16?

2. Who does the rich man represent in this account?

3. What is "Hades" (verse 23)?

4. In what way do unbelievers "choose" salvation?

5. How is the "great gulf fixed" between Hades and Heaven a comfort to believers?

**Answers**

1. The Lord's teaching about money

2. The self-righteous Pharisees

3. Hades is the realm of unbelievers who have died and are consciously awaiting their final consignment to Hell, which will take place at the Great White Throne judgment in the future (Revelation 20).

4. By refusing to believe the truth

5. Just as Hell is a permanent situation, so is Heaven. This is yet another confirmation of the believer's eternal security.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Have you ever heard people joke about going to Hell and how much "fun" it will be there with their friends? Review some of the points from this Talk that would strongly refute that misconception.

2. It is common to think, "If we could just show people miracles, like in Jesus' day, then they would believe." But discuss what our Lord said about this in verse 31. The Bible is sufficient evidence to anyone who is open to the truth. You can read more on this subject in the Devotion for Growing Christians entitled "Lost Forever."

**Challenge**

1. Did you know our Lord spoke more about Hell than about Heaven? One reason can be found in 2 Peter 3:9, our God does not want anyone to be lost forever in Hell.

# Teaching about Christian Service
## Luke 17:1-19

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Faithful Christian servants do not stumble little ones.**

**2. Faithful Christian servants are willing to forgive.**

**3. Faithful Christian servants do not serve for reward.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Let's take a Samaritan stance!**

**Questions**

1. Who is the Lord addressing in Luke 17?

2. What is a stumbling block? Who is a little one?

3. How do you stumble or hinder the spiritual growth of a little one?

4. Why do you serve the Lord?

5. Why did the one cleansed Samaritan leper return to thank the Lord?

**Answers**

1. The disciples, although the Pharisees may have been listening in.

2. A stumbling block is something that hinders the spiritual growth of a little one. A little one could be a child, or anyone who is younger or weaker in the Christian faith.

3. By your lifestyle, what you do and what you say.

4. We should serve because it is our duty to serve as faithful Christian servants. Our motivation should not be for the reward, although the Lord will reward us for faithful service.

5. Because he more fully realized the grace and mercy that had been shown to him as a Samaritan.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss how a believer's lifestyle can either encourage little ones in their faith or hinder them. Have you ever thought of this when making your own lifestyle choices? Is there anything questionable in your lifestyle now that you may need to reconsider?

2. Review and discuss the steps you should take before you confront a fellow believer who has sinned against you:
   1) Make sure you have the facts straight!
   2) Check your own life for sin.
   3) Be willing to forgive.

**Challenge**

1. As believers we have been saved by faith. Have you returned to really thank the Lord for His grace and mercy?

# Questions about the Kingdom of God
## Luke 17:20-37

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. At the First Coming of Christ, the kingdom of God came without signs.**

**2. At the Second Coming of Christ, the kingdom of God will come with signs.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Remember Lot's wife!**

**Questions**

1. Who does the Lord turn His attention to in this passage and why?

2. What is the apparent contradiction in this passage, and how can it be resolved?

3. What dramatic signs did the Pharisees expect to see with the coming of the kingdom?

4. In what way was the kingdom of God in the midst of the Pharisees?

5. How is the Second Coming of Christ like the flood in the days of Noah or like the coming of fire and brimstone on Sodom?

**Answers**

1. The Lord turns His attention to the Pharisees again because they asked Him about the kingdom of God.

2. In the Lord's initial answer to the Pharisees, He said that the kingdom of God was not coming with signs. But in His further teaching to the disciples, the Lord said that the kingdom of God was coming with signs. We must realize that at this point the kingdom of God had been announced and offered and already refused by Israel, because they had rejected the King (see Luke 13:34-35). The kingdom that the Lord was speaking of now was His Second Coming. Until that time, the kingdom of God on earth would be postponed.

3. Primarily they expected freedom from the yoke and oppression of Rome.

4. "In your midst" is a better translation than "within you" – since the Pharisees were unbelievers! Jesus Christ, the Person of the King Himself was in their midst, thus the kingdom of God was within their reach.

5. It will be sudden, unexpected, and catastrophic. People will be carrying on their normal affairs of life, and will not heed the preaching about the coming Kingdom of God.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss the important distinction between the Second Coming of Christ and the Rapture of the Church.

2. At first glance, verses 34-36 seem to be speaking clearly of the Rapture. But when we look closer and seek to be consistent in our interpretation, we see it actually refers to God's judgment at the Second Coming. Sometimes people can get so hasty in their interpretation that that they will use a passage to prove a point without really checking the context. Discuss the danger in this.

**Challenge**

1. Lot's wife looked back because her heart was in the things of Sodom. In the same way, if we set our hearts on the things of this life, we will lose our life's purpose, fulfillment, and reward. Remember Lot's wife!

# Parables of the Persistent Widow and the Tax Collector
## Luke 18:1-14

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. God expects us to be persistent in prayer.**

**2. God expects us to be humble in prayer.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't twist God's arm in prayer.**

**Questions**

1. Who are the elect of Luke 18:7?

2. Will it be easier for people to pray when they are under persecution in the end times?

3. The parable of persistent widow sounds like God is reluctant to give us what we need unless we pester Him for it. Is this the truth?

4. List the contrasts between the Pharisee and tax collector in the parable of the two prayers.

**Answers**

1. They are the elect of the Tribulation Period who will be undergoing great persecution at that time. Many will be martyred, and they will cry out day and night to God for justice.

2. No; praying in faith is never automatic. Spiritual conditions in the world will not improve or become more conducive to prayer. That is why people need to be encouraged in all ages to pray and not lose heart (verse 1).

3. No; the key to properly understanding this parable is to realize the Lord is not comparing God to the unrighteous judge, but contrasting Him.

4. - The Pharisee wanted to be seen by others // The tax collector stood a good distance away
   - The Pharisee prayed about himself and to himself // The tax collector humbly beat his chest
   - The Pharisee compared himself to others and thought he was doing fine // The tax collector measured himself by God's standards and found that he fell far short and cried out for mercy

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss the parable of the persistent widow. Understanding what this parable is *not* teaching is just as important as understanding what it is teaching.

2. What is your attitude when you approach prayer? In your public prayers before others and in your private prayers alone, do you approach God with an attitude of humility? What can you learn from the tax collector?

**Challenge**

1. Sometimes people complain and twist God's arm to give them something that is not best for them. Sometimes the Lord answers these selfish prayers. So, make sure your prayers are in line with God's word… and then be persistent in prayer!

# Becoming a Believer and Entering the Kingdom of God
## Luke 18:15-30

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Becoming a believer involves becoming like a little child.**

**2. Becoming a believer involves becoming like a poor person.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Enjoy the abundant life both now and forevermore.**

**Questions**

1. Explain the “camel through the eye of a needle” expression.

2. Is verse 29 teaching that you should divorce or forsake your wife in order to follow the Lord?

3. In what ways must we become like little children in order to receive the kingdom of God?

4. In verse 22, is the Lord teaching that salvation is by good works?

5. Explain verse 19, *“Why do you call Me good? No one is good but one, that is, God.”*

**Answers**

1. The word here is a sewing needle and could even refer to a surgeon's sewing needle, which Dr. Luke would be very familiar with. So this is a figure of speech describing a very difficult, if not impossible task.

2. No, that would contradict other Scripture on marriage. The teaching here is about priorities. The Lord must be number one in your life, and that may involve giving up the comforts of home or even foregoing marriage.

3. In humility, dependency, and faith

4. No! He is testing the man on the very first commandment – You shall have no other gods before Me.

5. The Lord was asking the rich young ruler if he was willing to recognize that Jesus is God.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss how little children are humble, dependent, and full of faith. Contrast this with how we approach something new, especially a matter of faith. What is one way you can become more child-like?

2. Wealth brings power, clout, security, and independence. Discuss why it is hard for people who have money to turn to God. But the good news is with God, all things are possible! What about you? Whether you have money or not, have you turned to God with a willingness to give up whatever you have to serve Him?

**Challenge**

1. Every believer receives eternal life, but not every believer experiences the abundant life now. Are your priorities straight? Are you willing to leave all for the sake of Christ in order to enjoy the abundant life both now and forevermore?

# The Lord Predicts His Death; A Blind Man is Healed
## Luke 18:31-43

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The Lord knew about His coming death and resurrection.**

**2. The Lord hears every humble cry for mercy.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't let what you want to believe keep you from believing what you should believe.**

**Questions**

1. Is this the first time that the Lord told His disciples He would be rejected and killed in Jerusalem?

2. Review three ways the Lord knew what would happen to Him in the future.

3. Explain the apparent contradictions between the healing of the blind man recorded in Luke and the parallel accounts in Matthew 20 and Mark 10: Were there two blind men or one? Did this miracle take place as they were leaving or approaching Jericho?

4. Why did the blind man call Jesus "Son of David"?

5. Why was it so hard for the disciples to understand what the Lord was telling them about His coming rejection, death, and resurrection?

**Answers**

1. No, He had told them before in Luke 9:22, 43-45 and 17:24-25. The Lord knew what lay in store for Him, but the disciples did not understand it.

2. - He had divine omniscience
   - He studied and learned the Old Testament messianic prophecies
   - The Holy Spirit revealed these things to Him

3. - Matthew says that there were two blind men healed. Apparently Mark and Luke concentrate on the one crying out for mercy. Mark even gives us his name: Bartimaeus.
   - The best explanation is that there were two Jerichos at that time- Old Testament Jericho and New Testament Jericho. The road up to Jerusalem went first alongside the abandoned tel of Old Testament Jericho and then through the city of New Testament Jericho. As Jewish writers, Matthew and Mark probably referred to Old Testament Jericho where so many biblical events in the Old Testament took place. Luke, the Gentile writer, probably referred to the Jericho that was standing at the time of Christ, built by Herod the Great. So the miracle would have taken place on the road between the two Jerichos, as they were leaving the site of Old Testament Jericho and approaching New Testament Jericho.

4. This was a messianic title. The blind man was humbly crying out for mercy with faith in Jesus as the Messiah.

5. They wanted to believe that Jesus was the Messiah who would deliver them from the oppression of Rome and set up His earthly kingdom right then. They did not want to believe in a rejected and crucified Messiah. What they wanted to believe kept them from believing what they should have believed.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. The Lord Jesus was, and is, 100% God and 100% Man. Discuss how His divine attributes were affected when He became Man.

2. Not all blind people in Israel at the time of Christ were miraculously healed. But this blind man called out for mercy and was healed. We never read of the Lord turning away from a humble cry for mercy. When have you cried to the Lord for mercy? How did He answer you?

**Challenge**

1. Don’t let what you want to believe keep you from believing what you should believe.

# The Salvation of Zacchaeus & The Parable of the Pounds
## Luke 19:1-27

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The Lord gives free and life-changing salvation.**

**2. The Lord rewards faithful and successful service.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Let's be entrepreneurs for Christ.**

**Questions**

1. Joke: Name three people in the Bible shorter than Zacchaeus.

2. Why did the Lord call Zacchaeus a "son of Abraham"?

3. Why were tax collectors so hated by the people?

4. The parable of the minas here is similar to the parable of the talents in Matthew 25, but there are some significant differences. What are the differences in the amounts and rewards given?

5. What are we all given like every other Christian servant?

6. The citizens of verse 14 who hated the nobleman are the enemies who are killed in verse 27. Who do they represent?

**Answers**

1. Nehemiah (Knee-high-miah), Bildad the Shuhite (Shoe-height), and the man who slept on his watch

2. He did not just mean that Zacchaeus was Jewish and a natural son of Abraham. He meant that Zacchaeus was now also a spiritual son of Abraham; he was now saved and walking by faith as Abraham did.

3. Jewish tax collectors were not only considered traitors for collecting taxes from Rome, but they were well known for lining their own pockets by overcharging the people.

4. In the parable of the talents there are different amounts of money given, but the successful servants are given the same reward. In the parable of the minas, the same amount of money is given to each servant, but the successful servants are given different amounts depending on how successful they have been.

5. We are all given one life to live with 24 hours each day.

6. They represent the unbelieving nation of Israel that rejected their Messiah (verse 14) and continue to reject the claims of Christ (verse 27). The enemies of verse 27 could further include all unbelievers who reject the claims of Christ.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Luke 18 recorded several people who refused to come to the Lord. Contrast the attitude of those people with the attitude of Zacchaeus in Luke 19. In which way do you most need to become like Zacchaeus?

2. How often do you think about reigning with Christ in His earthly kingdom? How are you living this life you've been given with that future reward in mind?

**Challenge**

1. Do you put your creativity and entrepreneurship to work when ministering for Christ? How can you be more efficient and effective in your Christian service?

# The Triumphal Entry; The Second Cleansing of the Temple
## Luke 19:28-48

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The Lord's Triumphal Entry was based on Old Testament Scriptures.**

**2. The Lord's cleansing of the Temple was based on Old Testament Scriptures.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't miss the lesson of the stones.**

**Questions**

1. Trace the Lord's travels on His final trip to Jerusalem. (Follow His path on a biblical map, if possible)

2. How does Zechariah 9:9 relate to this passage?

3. List two additional Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in the Triumphal Entry.

4. What event was the Lord predicting in verses 43-44?

5. What prompted the Lord's cleansing of the Temple?

**Answers**

1. The Lord had crossed the Jordan River after His final ministry in Perea, and was traveling on the old Roman road going up from Jericho to Jerusalem. At Jericho He healed the blind men and brought salvation to Zacchaeus. The Lord and the crowd accompanying Him were approaching Jerusalem from the east. They would go through Bethany and Bethphage, over the crest of the Mount of Olives, down into the Kidron Valley where the Garden of Gethsemane was located, and finally up through the East Gate into Jerusalem and the Temple area.

2. This Messianic prophecy, written more than 500 years before the event, foretold that the Messiah would ride into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey.

3. Psalm 118:26 and Daniel 9

4. The fall of Jerusalem to the Romans in 70 AD

5. Some people were using the Temple courts for commercial purposes – not only exchanging money for special temple currency to buy sacrifices, but also ripping off the people in the process.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss the lesson of the stones in verse 40. The events of the week surrounding Jesus' death are the focal point of human history. Yet the hearts of the Pharisees were harder than the stones. Discuss the people today who are so against the Lord that even if the stones were to cry out in praise, they would refuse to join in. How should we respond to these kinds of people?

**Challenge**

1. Learning a little bit about biblical geography will help the events of the Bible come alive. Get a good bible map or go online to see some photos of the Holy Land as you read through Scripture.

# Confrontation with Jewish Leaders; The Parable of the Vineyard
## Luke 20:1-19

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The Lord's question about John the Baptist answered His antagonists.**

**2. The Lord's parable of the vineyard anticipated His murder.**

**Practical Application**

**1. If you stumble over the stone, you will be broken.**

**Questions**

1. Review the daily events of the Lord's final week before the cross, as you have studied them thus far.

2. Why did Jesus' question in verse 4 put the Jewish leaders in a dilemma?

3. How did Jesus' question answer the Jewish leaders' question about His authority?

4. Why were the Jewish leaders portrayed as vineyard keepers in the Lord's parable?

5. Explain the meaning of verse 17, a quotation from Psalm 118:22.

**Answers**

1. Sunday was the Triumphal Entry and Monday was the cleansing of the Temple (Luke 19). Luke 20-21 covers the events on Tuesday of the final week.

2. If they said John's baptism was from heaven, then they condemned themselves, because they all knew that John had pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. If they said John the Baptist's ministry was man-made and John was not really a prophet of God, then they feared being stoned to death by the people for blasphemy, because the people knew that John was a true prophet of God.

3. Christ's authority was the same authority as the authority of John the Baptist, namely, the authority of God.

4. The vineyard keepers had the responsibility to look out for the owner's vineyard. And the Jewish leaders were responsible to properly lead the nation of Israel, God's vineyard.

5. The Lord, as the true Messiah of Israel, would be rejected then, but would become the key to the future of the whole nation and the world.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Read the parable of the vineyard in Isaiah 5. Discuss its similarities with the Lord's parable here. God expected spiritual fruit from His chosen people, but there was no fruit. Who did the Lord blame for this lack of fruit? What were the consequences?

**Challenge**

1. If you stumble over Christ and do not accept His claims as God as your only means of salvation, you will be broken. Don't reject Christ, the chief cornerstone.

# A Question the Religious Leaders Cannot Answer
## Luke 20:20-47

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Unbelievers will question the lifestyle of believers.**

**2. Unbelievers will ridicule the faith of believers.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Let's use the authority of Scripture to teach skeptics.**

**2. Let's heed the warnings of Scripture to avoid snares.**

**Questions**

1. How did the Jewish leaders respond to the parable of the vineyard in the first half of this chapter?

2. How were the unbelievers trying to undermine the Lord with their question in verse 22?

3. What was the distinguishing theology of the Sadducees?

4. How did the Lord respond to the Sadducees' question?

5. What was the Lord's point when He quoted from the Messianic Psalm 110?

**Answers**

1. They did exactly what the parable predicted – they sent out spies to try and trap the Lord in some convicting political statement so that they could have Him arrested, convicted, and killed (verse 20).

2. Did the Lord pay taxes to Rome or not? Was it right to pay taxes to a pagan government? With either answer they hoped to show that Jesus was somehow inconsistent in His teaching and compromising in His lifestyle.

3. The Sadducees did not believe in miracles, and that included any resurrection of the dead.

4. He taught them that believers who have died are still living with God; they have not ceased to exist. Also, in the age to come there is no marriage.

5. His point was to teach these skeptics that the Messiah would be both Human – the descendant of David, and Divine – because David called the Messiah, Lord.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. The tactics that unbelievers used to try to discredit the Lord are the same tactics that unbelievers will use today to try to discredit Christians. Unbelievers may try to trap believers in inconsistencies or question their lifestyle. Have you seen this to be true in your own life of the lives of those you know?

2. Another tactic of unbelievers is to ridicule the faith of believers. Have you experienced this? How do you respond?

**Challenge**

1. Notice that the Lord used Scripture to teach the skeptics. Many believers today think they can't use Scripture in refuting critics, but the Word of God is powerful and full of truth. Let's follow the Lord's example and use the authority of Scripture to teach skeptics.

# The Lord's Discourse about the Future of Israel
## Luke 21

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The future of Israel was predicted by the Lord's prophecy.**

**2. The future of Israel was predicted by the Lord's parable.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't be caught off guard.**

**Questions**

1. Why did the Lord say that the widow gave more than the rich people who were putting larger amounts into the treasury?

2. Outline the Lord's discourse in this chapter.

3. Who was the audience for this discourse?

4. What are the "times of the Gentiles"?

5. Who does the fig tree represent in the parable?

**Answers**

1. Because in God's eyes the amount you give is determined by how much you have left.

2. - vs 8-19: The general conditions that will characterize the future from the time of Christ all the way until the end times
   - vs 20-24: The details of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD
   - vs 25-28: The signs that will precede the Lord's 2nd Coming

3. This discourse in context was not addressed to the Church, but to the Lord's Jewish disciples in answer to their questions about the Jewish Temple, Jerusalem, and the nation of Israel.

4. The times of the Gentiles began when Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon conquered Jerusalem and destroyed Solomon's Temple in 586 BC. The Jewish people have controlled Jerusalem for relatively brief periods of time, but overall, Jerusalem has been subject to continual Gentile invasion and domination. The times of the Gentiles will continue until the Lord returns and liberates Jerusalem and sets up His earthly kingdom.

5. The fig tree represents Israel, as it does in other Old Testament and New Testament Scriptures (Hosea 9:10 and Luke 13:6, for example).

**Discuss / Consider**

1. It is important to realize that the Lord's discourse here was given to a Jewish audience. Read back over the section. Imagine some of the bad interpretations that could occur if we believed this teaching was for the Church.

2. Sport coaches are known for saying, "Keep your eye on the ball." Based on the parable of the fig tree we could say, "Keep your eye on Israel." Do you keep up-to-date with news in the Middle East? Remember that future end time events will all occur there. Keep your eye on Israel.

**Challenge**

1. The Lord's warning in vs 34-38 was addressed specifically to the Jewish people. But we can apply this warning to ourselves as we wait for the rapture. Let's not waste our lives and squander our limited time. Let's keep alert and pray as we remember that we are going to stand before the Lord. The Lord could return for His Church at any time!

# The Lord's Supper Instituted; Peter's Denial Predicted
## Luke 22:1-38

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The institution of the Lord's Supper was during the last Passover.**

**2. The prediction of Peter's denial was after a dispute about greatness.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Be prepared for opposition!**

**Questions**

1. How did the Lord spend His final week?

2. Review the little lesson on the Jewish calendar which leads us to the conclusion that Jesus was crucified on a Friday.

3. How are the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man both taught in verse 22?

4. What was the Lord's meaning in verses 19-20?

5. How can you be great in God's kingdom?

**Answers**

1. He spent the days teaching the people in the Temple courts.

2. Passover was on the 14th of the Hebrew month of Nisan, followed by 7 days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. But because the two feasts went together, the Passover would also be called the 1st day of Unleavened Bread (verse 7). We believe that the Lord was crucified on the 14th of Nisan at the time when the Passover lambs were sacrificed. Since the day began with sunset the night before, verse 7 would indicate that the Lord and His disciples made preparations to celebrate the Passover meal on Thursday evening and the Lord was crucified on Friday.

3. It was predetermined that the Lord would go to the cross – the sovereignty of God. But Judas was held responsible for his betrayal – the responsibility of man.

4. The Lord meant that the bread and the wine represent His body and blood. He said this while He was still in His body, before He went to the cross.

5. Be a servant to others.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss the encouragement we can pull from the Lord's prediction of Peter's denial. The Lord prays for us as He prayed for Peter. Satan cannot tempt us or touch us in any way without God's permission.

2. After Peter boasted that he would follow the Lord to prison and to death the Lord had to humble him by predicting his denial. The Lord has to humble us as well when we think more of ourselves than we should. Give an example of this from your life. Refer to 1 Corinthians 10:12.

**Challenge**

1. Be prepared for opposition as you preach the gospel and do the Lord's work.

# The Lord's Arrest and Trial; Peter's Three Denials
## Luke 22:39-53

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The denial of Peter was predicted by the Lord.**

**2. The derision of people was predicted by the Lord.**

**3. The delegation of power was predicted by the Lord.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Remember, it's not wrong to pray for a cup of suffering to be removed.**

**Questions**

1. The Lord asked His disciples to pray so that they would not enter into temptation (verse 40). What temptation?

2. What did the Lord mean by "this cup" in verse 42?

3. What were the two phases of the Lord's trial?

4. Who was guilty of shamefully mistreating the Lord?

5. On what basis did the Sanhedrin convict the Lord Jesus?

**Answers**

1. The temptation to give up and forsake the Lord when the going got tough

2. The cup was more than just the physical sufferings of our Lord on the cross. The cup involved all the suffering that was associated with the sinless Son of God taking upon Himself the penalty for our sins, experiencing the wrath of God and temporary separation from the Father.

3. He had a religious trial and a civil trial.

4. Both the Jewish religious leaders and later the Roman soldiers

5. They prodded the Lord to declare that He was God, which to them was blasphemy and worthy of death. They refused to consider that our Lord's claims were true.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. What do you think was going through Peter's mind when people pointed at him and said he was a follower of Jesus? What do you think went through Peter's mind when he heard the rooster crow and saw the Lord's face? What was the lesson for Peter and for us?

2. By their power the Sanhedrin had the Lord convicted and delivered to Rome to be crucified. But by God's power, the Lord would be resurrected and He would ascend to heaven and be seated at the right hand of the power of God. We serve a mighty God whose ways are far above the ways of man. Have you acknowledged and thanked Him for His sovereign power lately?

**Challenge**

1. It's not wrong for us to pray for a cup of suffering to be removed, as the Lord did. It is not a sign of weakness or ungodliness. It is critical however that we have the attitude, "Not my will, but Yours be done."

# The Lord's Civil Trial Before Pilate and Herod
## Luke 23:1-25

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. Herod confirmed the innocence of Jesus.**

**2. Pilate declared the innocence of Jesus.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Examine the bottom life of your friendships!**

**Questions**

1. Outline the phases of the Lord's trial.

2. Why did the Sanhedrin bring the Lord before Pilate?

3. Review the false charges against the Lord.

4. Was this Herod the one who killed the babies in Bethlehem and built the Temple?

5. How many times did Pilate declare the Lord's innocence?

**Answers**

1. The Lord really had two trials, with three stages each.
- Religious trial
- Before Annas the high priest
- Before Caiaphas the high priest
- Before the Sanhedrin
- Civil trial
- Before Pilate
- Before Herod
- Back before Pilate

2. Because the Sanhedrin did not have the authority to carry out the death penalty

3. 1) He misled the nation
   2) He told the people not to pay their taxes
   3) He was proclaiming Himself as king

4. No, that was Herod the Great (who was never called great in the Bible!) This was one of his sons, Herod Antipas. This is the Herod who had John the Baptist beheaded and whom the Lord called “that fox” in Luke 13:32.

5. Three times (verses 4, 14, and 22). Pilate’s wife also declared the innocence of Jesus in Matthew 27.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Pilate and Herod had been enemies, but now they become friends. The bottom line of their friendship was their contempt and unjust treatment of Jesus. Discuss the bottom line of your friendships with fellow believers? Are they healthy or harmful?

**Challenge**

1. Even though the Lord was totally and completely innocent, Pilate yielded to political and crowd pressure to release to them Barabbas who was a known criminal. Have you been convinced that something is right, but then yielded under pressure? Stand firm! Stand up for what you know is right and true!

# The Crucifixion and Burial of Christ
## Luke 23:26-56

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The salvation of the thief on the cross is very instructive.**

**2. The events surrounding the crucifixion are very instructive.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Don't lose sight of the resurrection because of the site of the resurrection.**

**Questions**

1. Who was conscripted to carry the crossbeam for the Lord's cross?

2. Why did the Lord tell the women in the crowd not to weep for Him, but for themselves and their children?

3. "Golgotha" and "Calvary" are two words Christians like to use, but what do they mean?

4. What was the symbolism in the sky becoming dark for three hours during our Lord's crucifixion?

5. How did the Roman soldiers react to these supernatural events surrounding the crucifixion?

**Answers**

1. A Jewish man named Simon, from Cyrene in North Africa, who was in Jerusalem for the Passover

2. He was referring to the coming Roman conquest of Jerusalem in 70 AD, when many of the Jews would be slaughtered.

3. They both mean “skull.” Golgotha is Aramaic and Calvary is Latin. The place of crucifixion was called the place of the skull, either because it was shaped like a skull or because it was a place of execution.

4. This was not a natural eclipse, but supernatural darkness. It was a sign from God to the nation of Israel who had rejected her Messiah. They had rejected the Light of the World. Now they would be judged with national blindness, which continues to this day. 2 Corinthians 3 indicates that this blindness will not be taken away until Israel turns to the Lord.

5. They all testified not only to the innocence of Jesus but to His being God.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss the valuable insights into salvation that we can draw from the salvation of the thief on the cross. Remember, he did no good works. He was not baptized. There was no time between his death and his being with the Lord in heaven. His body went into the grave, but his soul and spirit went to heaven to be consciously with the Lord and await the resurrection of his body.

2. Discuss the miraculous tearing of the veil of the Temple in two from top to bottom. The way into God’s presence was now open and available for all who would come by faith, because Jesus had died for the sins of the world (see Hebrews 10:19-22). Discuss what it would have been like to be a Temple priest at that time. Imagine being the priest assigned the job of sewing the veil back up again!

**Challenge**

1. If you go to the Holy Land today you will be shown two different proposed locations for the resurrection of Christ. We don’t know for sure which is the true site. But the good news is both tombs are empty! The Lord is risen!

# The Lord's Resurrection and Appearance on The Road to Emmaus
## Luke 24:1-35

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The empty tomb is evidence for the resurrection.**

**2. The Lord's appearance is evidence for the resurrection.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Let's follow the biblical path to a burning heart.**

**Questions**

1. Discuss the timeframe of the women intending to anoint Jesus' body.

2. What convinced Peter of the resurrection?

3. Did only a few people see the Lord after His resurrection?

4. At what point did the two disciples on the road to Emmaus realize that it was the Lord speaking to them?

5. What do you think was the most humorous moment on the road to Emmaus?

**Answers**

1. The Lord was crucified and buried on Friday and after the women observed His burial before sunset, they returned home to prepare spices to anoint the body of the Lord. This was the custom for proper burial in those days. But because the next day was Saturday, they rested in accordance with the Law and then came early Sunday morning to the tomb in order to anoint the Lord's body.

2. It was not remembering the predictions of our Lord (although this should have been enough). It was the evidence of the empty tomb that convinced him.

3. No, He appeared on numerous occasions, to hundreds of people. See Acts 1:3 and 1 Corinthians 15:5-8.

4. After their walk and study together, after they invited Him into their home, during the meal, finally when He prayed and passed the bread to them did they realize who He was.

5. There were many, but one was certain when Cleopas said to the Lord, *"Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?" Luke 24:18*

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Discuss the various attempts of skeptics trying to explain away the empty tomb. All of these theories can be refuted. There is only one true reason for the empty tomb – Jesus rose from the dead!

2. Imagine the amazing Bible Study the two disciples received from the Lord Himself as He opened up the Scriptures to them and showed them how all of the Old Testament Scriptures spoke of the Messiah and pointed forward to Him. Think of all the Messianic prophecies and types and spiritual pictures of Christ in the Old Testament. Do you read the Old Testament with this mindset? Do you read the Old Testament at all?

**Challenge**

1. Have you felt your "heart burn" as part of the Christian experience? Getting into the Word of God more and understanding it is the biblical path to a burning heart.

# Another Post-Resurrection Appearance, and the Ascension of Christ
## Luke 24:36-53

**Background**

**Doctrinal Points**

**1. The resurrection of Christ was a bodily resurrection.**

**2. The ascension of Christ was a bodily ascension.**

**Practical Application**

**1. Make the Lord and His people the center of your activity.**

**Questions**

1. How long was the Lord on earth following His resurrection? What was He doing during this time?

2. How was the Lord's resurrection body different from His body before death?

3. How was the Lord's resurrection body like His body before death?

4. Give some examples of Old Testament Scriptures that teach the suffering, death, and resurrection of the Messiah

5. What was the *"Promise of the Father"* (verse 49)?

**Answers**

1. The Lord was on earth for 40 days following His resurrection. He made numerous appearances to hundred of people to confirm the truth of His resurrection.

2. His resurrection glorified body was not subject to certain limitations like gravity and closed doors.

3. His resurrection body was a literal, tangible, physical, material body with flesh and solid structural bones. He confirmed that His body was real by taking something to eat.

4. Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, Psalm 16

5. This was the promise of the Holy Spirit to come with power at Pentecost.

**Discuss / Consider**

1. Think back over our study of the book of Luke. What has been the most interesting thing you have learned? What has been the most insightful?

**Challenge**

1. Have you made the Lord and His people a priority in your life? We have our jobs and responsibilities and it's not wrong to have wholesome secular interest. But make the Lord and His people the center of your activity.