

HE HAS CALLED US, Too



A STUDY ON THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

INTRODUCTION

The Gospel of Luke is about Jesus. He is no doubt the star and every one else forms part of the supporting cast. His interaction with the role players allows us to gain an understanding of Him that would otherwise be impossible. In the universe of Biblical characters, Jesus is the sun and the rest of the players revolve around Him. The people we see in the Gospels are more like the moon or a planet than like a star. They do not produce light, but only reflect it. We will examine how His light is reflected in these moons and planets. The complementary characters we find will encourage us, enlighten us, and help us to understand more about the people that God uses. I trust that this study will take you to a new depth of understanding about the Lord and how He works in those who follow Him.

Use this study guide to help you to review the text and focus your study. Then go on line to The Chapel Facebook page and read the daily comments. There is a link at The Chapel website www.thechapelsd.org. Please feel free to join the conversation and post your comments and questions.

Have a great time studying the Book of Luke, may God use it to mold you more and more into the image of Christ.

-Pastor John

JANUARY 2010

January 4

Luke 1:1-38

1. Why did Theophilus think that he should write an account of the events of Jesus' life?
2. What were three of the characteristics/signs that were to accompany the life of John the Baptist?
3. Describe the stages of reaction that Mary goes through when she gets the news that she, being a virgin, is going to be used by God to give birth to the Messiah?

January 5

Luke 1:39-80

1. How does Elizabeth react to her visit from Mary?
2. Describe the scene on the eighth day of John's life, and the interaction among the relatives and neighbors.

January 6

Luke 2:1-52

1. Why do you think that Jesus' birth was first announced to the shepherds?
2. How does God use Simeon and Anna to show that He is doing something special at this time?

January 7

Luke 3:1-38

1. Summarize the message of John the Baptist.
2. How do the reactions of the various people to John's message show the divisive nature of the Word of God?

January 8

Luke 4:1-15

1. What common theme can you find in the temptations that the devil throws at Jesus?
2. How does Jesus respond to each temptation?

January 11

Luke 4:16-44

To get a little feel for where Nazareth and Capernaum are located, check out the map on The Chapel Facebook page.

1. Why do you think that the people of Nazareth had such a negative reaction to Jesus' message?
2. How would you contrast the reaction to Jesus in Capernaum with the reaction to Him in His home town?

January 12

Luke 5:1-39

1. Jesus showed His power to Peter, Andrew, James and John and they followed. How did He show His power through the calling of Levi?
2. Jesus will meet each of us where we are. Notice His interaction with each of the people mentioned in chapter 5. How would you describe the those interactions?

January 13

Luke 6:1-26

1. The Pharisees took the Sabbath very seriously, and they viewed some of Jesus actions as being in violation of the Sabbath. How did Jesus reconcile His actions with the command to not work on the last day of the week? (Reference Exodus 20:8)
2. What common theme or themes can you find between the beatitudes (the "blessed is" sayings) and the woes of chapter 6?

January 14

Luke 6:27-49

1. Jesus gives many commands and teachings in this passage. In which of them do you need to grow?
2. What do the two men in verses 46-49 have in common? Where do they differ?

January 15

Luke 7:1-35

1. The Centurion was a Roman. How does His interaction with Jesus show that the Lord's ministry isn't about country, nationality or race?
2. What was it about the ministry of Jesus that could have made them question whether or not He was the one of whom John the Baptist spoke?

January 18

Luke 7:36-50

1. What does the story of the sinful woman teach us about Jesus' willingness to reach down and save us, no matter what our past?
2. What did Jesus notice about the woman that the others didn't seem to see?

January 19

Luke 8:1-25

1. Jesus uses the parable of the sower to teach us about the way we react to God's Word. With which type of soil do you most identify?
2. In verses 22 through 25 we read the story of Jesus calming the storm. In what ways can you relate to the disciples and their situation?

January 20

Luke 8:26-56

Find Gergesa on a map to help orient you to this story. You can find one posted at The Chapel Facebook page.

1. What do you learn about demons from the story of the man from the country of the Gerasenes?
2. What similarities and differences do you see between the two situations where Jesus heals in verses 40-56?

January 21

Luke 9:1-27

1. Summarize the instructions Jesus has for the 12 as He sends them out. What do you see as the theme of His instructions?
2. The feeding of the 5,000 is the one miracle that is mentioned in all four Gospels. How did He use a boy (see John 6:9) who was willing to give what he had?
3. How did Peter misunderstand Jesus, and what it meant to be the Christ, the Son of the living God? What does it mean for you to take up your cross daily?

January 22

Luke 9:28-62

1. Why would Jesus display His glory to fallible men?
2. How does Jesus settle the argument between his disciples? What do you think He means by using the child as the example of who is the greatest in His kingdom?

January 25

Luke 10:1-20

1. Describe the instructions to the seventy two before their mission and the results of that mission.
2. Chorazin and Bethsaida were centers of discipleship. Why would they be under harsher judgment than Tyre and Sidon?

January 26

Luke 10:21-42

1. The parable of the good Samaritan is given as an answer to what question?
2. Compare and contrast Mary and Martha and their experience when Jesus was visiting their house. Why was Mary's reaction better than Martha's? Which of the two reminds you most of yourself?

January 27

Luke 11:1-28

1. How does Jesus teach us to pray? What does He teach us to do if He doesn't initially respond as we would like?
2. What do you think Jesus comments about cleaning the house and the demons returning with companions is trying to teach us?

January 28

Luke 11:29-54

One theme we have seen through the book of Luke is the idea that those who know and have heard carry more responsibility, and will be judged more harshly than those who have had less exposure to the truth.

1. What sign did Jesus promise the multitude? How would the sign of Jonah be played out in Jesus' ministry?
2. List the reasons for the woes that Jesus pronounces upon the Pharisees. Why would the Pharisees, more than others, be the object of these woes?

January 29

Luke 12:1-34

1. Try to come up with a theme that ties together all the parts of today's reading.
2. Based on today's text, would you say fear is a good thing or a bad thing? How could it be good? In what ways is it bad?

FEBRUARY 2010

Since we are beginning a new month, I want to reset our thinking. We are focusing on how Jesus interacted with those around Him and how we can live out his teaching.

February 1

Luke 12:35-59

This passage is really about instructions for disciples. Read these verses asking yourself, "How can I practically apply the teaching of Jesus to my life?"

1. How should the prospect of the second coming of Christ change the way I live?
2. Why do you think that Christ brings division?

February 2

Luke 13:1-35

1. According to the first five verses of this chapter, why is necessary for everyone to repent?
2. Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem?

February 3

Luke 14:1-35

1. What is the lesson of the parable of the banquet? (verses 12-24)
2. Why is it important to count the cost of following Christ?

February 4

Luke 15:1-32

1. What is the theme that runs through this chapter?
2. What does it take for the younger son to decide to come back to the father? What do you think this story is teaching?

February 5

Luke 16:1-18

1. Jesus commends the unrighteous servant. What priorities should we have with the resources that God gives to us?
2. What does it mean that no one can serve two masters, God and money? Why do you think this is?

February 8**Luke 16:19-31**

1. Describe the rich man and Lazarus. What did they have in common? What differences did they have?
2. What do you learn about the afterlife from this passage?

February 9**Luke 17:1-19**

1. What do you think Jesus is trying to teach us about faith in verses 5 and 6?
2. Reading the story of the lepers, what do we learn about the kind of attitude God wants us to have?

February 10**Luke 17:20-37**

1. What does Jesus say are some of the signs of His coming?
2. In what ways will the time of his coming be like the time of Noah and the time of Lot?

February 11**Luke 18:1-17**

1. Summarize the story Jesus tells to encourage us to continue to pray and not get discouraged.
2. How do the two examples that Jesus gives in verses 9-17 teach us that what God is looking for is the attitude of our heart, more than just routinely fulfilling religious obligations?

February 12**Luke 18:18-43**

1. Again we see that the message that Jesus causes divisions. How does the reaction of the rich ruler illustrate this?
2. How can we identify with the blind beggar? Why is it that we need God's mercy?

February 15

Luke 19:1-27

1. Compare and contrast the rich ruler from yesterday with Zacchaeus. What do they have in common? How are they different?
2. Summarize the story of the minas. Examine the gifts that God has given you. How can you use what God has given you to benefit His kingdom?

February 16

Luke 19:28-48

1. How did the crowd receive Jesus upon His entry into Jerusalem?
2. How does Jesus show both his heart for the people of Jerusalem and His authority over the temple?

February 17

Luke 20:1-26

1. Jesus was a master of answering questions. He knew when to answer a question clearly and when to give an evasive answer. He knew when to answer a question with a question. Compare how He deals with the question about His authority with how He deals with the question about paying taxes.
2. Analyze the parable about the tenants. Who do you think the owner is? Who are the tenants? What is Jesus trying to say?

February 18

Luke 20:27-47

1. The Sadducees raise a question about the resurrection based on a hypothetical situation. Summarize Jesus' reasoning in His response?
2. What is the warning that Jesus gives to His disciples with respect to the Scribes?

February 19

Luke 21:1-19

1. What do the widow's actions teach us? Can you tie them in with verses 45-47 of Chapter 20?
2. Make a list of the things Jesus said would be in the future? Why should those things make a person want to follow Christ?

February 22

Luke 21:20-38

1. List more things that Jesus says will happen before He comes again.
2. At the end of the chapter Jesus warns that these things may discourage and dishearten. What do you learn here that will help you stand firm through discouraging times?

February 23

Luke 22:1-34

1. In this passage we get a glimpse of the disciples in action. They come off as anything but perfect. Notice that in each scene there is some kind of an issue with them. Try to discern the problem with the disciples in each scene.
2. What does the lack of faith, the bickering and the betrayal by Jesus' disciples teach us about the kind of people Jesus can use?

February 24

Luke 22:35-71

1. Jesus hand picked His disciples. List more of their actions that could have been a discouragement to Jesus. Why does the Bible make their faults so apparent?
2. What happened when Jesus was before the council? Why do you think they were so against Him?

February 25

Luke 23:1-56

1. What do you notice about the character of the men who sit in judgment of Jesus?
2. As you read the story of the crucifixion, what most strikes you about what Jesus went through? What characteristics of Jesus most stand out to you? How does it make you feel?

February 26

Luke 24:1-53

1. Why do you think the followers of Christ were so surprised by the resurrection?
2. How do you think they felt when they realized the reality of the resurrection?
3. How were their lives changed?
4. How does the fact that Jesus rose from the dead change your life?

CONCLUSION

I hope that this study has been a time of blessing and growth in your life. That you have seen that God really does look at the heart and that the person that is willing to come to God and say "Yes Lord." is truly a person that God can use. I trust that you have learned that God is in the business of using imperfect people like you and me to extend His kingdom. What is God calling you to do for His Kingdom? I really want to help you fulfill the mission God has for you.

Serving Christ with you,
Pastor John