

The story of Jesus Christ's life and death was told in four different ways in the four gospels. Matthew was a Jew who primarily wrote to other Jews to show that Jesus was the Messiah and the fulfillment of the Old Testament. Mark was a Jew who wrote to show those in the Roman culture how Jesus was the King of a new kingdom. John was a Jew who wrote to show that Jesus was the source of life and that He is God. Luke was a Gentile who wrote to other Gentiles to explain how Jesus was the Savior of every man.

Luke's point of view may be important in our teaching. Most Christians and most of the people we might have an opportunity to teach are not Jewish. Luke's background and his intended audience are closer to ours than the other gospels.

*What is the purpose of the Gospel of Luke?* Luke explained this quickly in the first four verses. He wanted to tell the story of Jesus' life and demonstrate its meaning as accurately as he could. Luke's intent also shows in 19:10: "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." Jesus came to be the Savior of every man.

*How is Luke different than the other gospels?* In addition to the points made above, a number of events are recorded only in Luke. Seven of the twenty-two miracles and sixteen of the twenty-six parables in Luke are not in the other gospels.

*Who was Luke?* Paul described Luke as the "beloved physician" in Colossians 4:14. In Acts, Luke accompanied Paul intermittently on his journeys. The places where Luke joined or left Paul suggest that he may have lived in Macedonia and spent time in Syria and Judea (Luke joins Paul's group in Troas in Acts 16:10; departs from Philippi in 16:17; rejoins them in Troas in 20:5; departs from Jerusalem in 21:18; and joins Paul's voyage to Rome in Caesarea in 27:1).

In Colossians 4:14 and Philemon 24 Luke sent along greetings as Paul wrote from prison. In 2 Timothy 4:11 he alone was with Paul as Paul's death neared.

*What is the relationship between Luke and Acts?* Acts is the companion book to Luke's Gospel. Acts tells how the church began to spread throughout the world.

**A Note About These Lessons** You will find certain features in each lesson:

- A Key Verse that helps to summarize the chapter
- A brief summary of the chapter in the margin of the first page
- A short discussion of the chapter
- A list of parallel passages in the other gospels
- How the chapter shows that Jesus is the Savior of every man (the purpose)
- Fifteen questions; the last two questions of each lesson will be similar.

Please pray that the class will work together to learn God's word and to be able to teach others.

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## Two Birth Announcements

**Key Verse:** v. 76 - “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare His ways.”

The first chapter of Luke goes further back in time than any other gospel. Here is the beginning of the lives of John the Baptist and Jesus and a new era for God’s people. The writing of the Bible had paused for over four hundred years, but now God was beginning to speak directly to His people again.

**A Difference in Attitudes.** Zacharias sinned in questioning Gabriel when the angel told him that he would have a son. When Gabriel came to announce Jesus’ birth, Mary asked a question which sounded similar. Mary asked with a different attitude. Zacharias’ question (v. 18) came after an angel had explained God’s plan. To ask if it would happen was to doubt. Mary asked, “How can this be?” (v. 34), not doubting that it would happen, but not understanding how. Elizabeth said that Mary believed in the fulfillment of the promise (v. 45). We must believe that “nothing will be impossible with God” (v. 37).

**Mary’s Song: The Joy of a Servant.** Mary regarded herself as God’s slave despite His favor (v. 48). She knew that her privilege was given by God (v. 49). She knew that her service was part of God’s ancient plan (v. 54-55). Her joy was in God her Savior (v. 46-47). Mary’s song is the first of four in the first two chapters. Her song reminds us of the Psalms and Hannah’s song in 1 Samuel 2.

**Zacharias’ Song: The Unchanging Nature of God.** When Zacharias regained his speech, he put it to good use. He prophesied about his son John’s role in the plan of God and how that plan was fulfilled. Twice he mentioned how this was a fulfillment of earlier promises (v. 70, 73). Three times he quoted the Old Testament (v. 71, Isaiah 40:3 in v. 76, Isaiah 9:2 in v. 79). Three times he spoke of the salvation that was the end result of this plan (v. 69, 71, 77).

**The Announcement of Jesus’ Purpose.** Some believe that Jesus had to discover His identity as God’s Son and figure out His role on His own. Luke tells us that it was announced in advance. Gabriel said that John would be born to be a forerunner for Him (v. 13-17). He told Mary that Jesus would reign on David’s throne eternally (v. 32-33) and that He would be the Son of God (v. 32, 35). Mary knew that Jesus’ influence would last for all time (v. 48).

**The Importance of Purity.** God loves to forgive sin, but there are consequences of sin that may not leave us in this life. Many Christian men might have the opportunity to serve as elders if it were not for damage done to their reputation or family in earlier years (1 Timothy 3:2-7; Titus 1:6-7). Mary’s chance to serve in this most special way could not have come if she had not followed God her entire life. John was required to live his entire life according to strict rules (v. 15). All God requires of us is to serve Him the best we can, but there are great benefits to the purity that comes with lifelong service.

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

Most of Chapter 1 is only in Luke (a summary of 1:26-38 is in Matthew 1:18).

**Quick Summary of Chapter I:**

Gabriel visits Zacharias in the temple

An angel visits Mary, who conceives

Mary visits Elizabeth and praises God

John is born; Zacharias prophesies about his son

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

Luke's purpose is to show that Jesus is the Savior of every man. Gabriel showed that Jesus would be the Son of Man and the Son of God and His kingdom would have no end (v. 31-35).

**Questions** Where applicable, write which verse or verses have the answer to the question.

1. According to v. 4, why did Luke write this account of the gospel for Theophilus?
2. How does Luke describe the character of Zacharias and Elizabeth?  
(v. ) 6
3. How did Zacharias and Mary react when each first saw the angel Gabriel?  
(v. ) 11-12, 28-29
4. What did Gabriel say was the purpose of John's life?  
(v. ) 16-17
5. What was Zacharias' punishment for not believing Gabriel?  
(v. ) 20
6. According to Gabriel, what names or titles would Mary's son have?  
(v. ) 32, 35
7. On whose throne would Jesus sit?  
(v. ) 32
8. How long would Jesus reign?  
(v. ) 33
9. Isaiah 7:14 contains a prophecy that is fulfilled in Luke 1. What is it?
10. What happened when Mary greeted Elizabeth in her house?  
(v. ) 41-45
11. What two things did Mary say about God's mercy in her song?  
(v. ) 50, 54-55
12. What happened that caused God to let Zacharias speak again?  
(v. ) 20, 63-64
13. What two things did Zacharias say about God's mercy in his song?  
(v. ) 72, 77-78
14. Which lesson from Luke 1 impresses you the most? How can you apply this to your life?
15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## Jesus' Birth and Boyhood

**Key Verse:** v. 11 - "For today in the city of David there has been born to you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

This beautiful chapter shows how Jesus was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy and how He started fulfilling His mission at a young age. He needed to be where He could learn about His Father (v. 49). We also see how the world testified of Him before He testified of God to the world.

**Jesus Christ Announced to the World.** Jesus Christ was announced during Gabriel's visit to Mary and many times afterward. We see angels announcing His birth to the shepherds (v. 9-14) and Simeon declaring that He was the Christ to His family (v. 29-32). Anna also told many that He would redeem Israel (v. 38).

**Obedience to the Laws of God and Men.** Joseph and Mary set a good example for Jesus by obeying God and the government. They obeyed the government by going to Bethlehem for the census (v. 4-5). They obeyed God by having Him circumcised and naming Him as they were commanded (v. 21). They obeyed the Old Law by offering the proper sacrifice (v. 22-24). They regularly traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover (v. 41). In v. 39, Luke said, "they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord."

**Simeon's Song: The Savior of the World.** In the temple, Simeon called Jesus the salvation, the consolation, and the glory of Israel, but he also said that Jesus Christ would be "A light of revelation to the Gentiles" (v. 32). Simeon also mentioned the opposition that He would face and how His ministry would reveal the thoughts of men (v. 34-35). Simeon had waited for the Christ, and now that He had come Simeon could die in peace because he trusted in God.

**Jesus' Relationship with His Parents.** Jesus always obeyed His parents, though He was greater than they were. Apparently He stayed in the temple because He thought His parents would know what He needed to be doing. Jesus came to fulfill the Law, and He could not have done it without living perfectly under the Law, including being in subjection to His parents (v. 51).

**Jesus' Mission.** The birth of Jesus was important because it fulfilled prophecy and showed the plan of God, but it was only a part of the Good News of God. Men have an unfortunate tendency to dwell on the Messiah in the manger and ignore the Christ on the cross.

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

Matthew 2:19-23 elaborates on the return to Nazareth that v. 39 mentions. The rest of the chapter is unique to Luke.

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

Luke records two incidents in which Jesus is shown to be the Savior of every man. The angels announced Jesus as a Savior and said that His work would affect all people (v. 10-11). Simeon proclaimed that in Jesus was salvation and that the salvation would be for all people, including the Gentiles (v. 30-32).

**Quick Summary of Chapter 2:**

Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem; Jesus is born

Shepherds visit Jesus after seeing the angels singing

Simeon and Anna recognize Jesus at the temple

Jesus at age twelve stays at the temple after Passover

## Questions

1. What information does Luke give us to date the birth of Christ?  
(v.     ) 1-2
2. Why did Joseph have to travel all the way to Bethlehem for the census?  
(v.     ) 4-5
3. A prophecy in Micah 5:2 was fulfilled when Mary gave birth to Jesus in Luke 2:7. What was it?
4. What did the angels tell the shepherds would be a sign that they had found the Christ?  
(v.     ) 12
5. In v. 19, when the shepherds had told her about what the angels had said, and in v. 51, when Jesus had returned home with them from Jerusalem, what did Mary do?
6. Why did Joseph and Mary take Jesus to Jerusalem after Mary's days of purification were over?  
(v.     ) 22
7. What did Joseph and Mary offer as a sacrifice? What does Leviticus 12:6-8 tell us about it?  
(v.     ) 24
8. In Simeon's song, for whom did he say that God's salvation had come?  
(v.     ) 31-32
9. When Anna had seen Jesus, what does v. 38 say about the people that she told about Jesus?
10. How is Joseph and Mary's obedience to the Law described?  
(v.     ) 39, 41
11. Passover is mentioned in v. 41-42. What happened at the Passover feast in Luke 22:1-38?
12. Why did Jesus think that His parents should have looked for Him first in the temple?  
(v.     ) 49
13. According to v. 52, in what ways did Jesus grow between His boyhood and His manhood?
14. Which lesson from Luke 2 is the most important to you? How can you apply this to your daily life?
15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## Making Ready the Way

Key Verse: v. 4 - “As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord.’”

Isaiah 40 contains a burst of energy. Israel will be comforted because the glory of the LORD is coming in a new and permanent way. Luke refers to Isaiah 40:3-5 as he describes John the Baptist’s work (v. 4-6). The new glory of the LORD was starting to arrive. John preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (v. 3). John’s practical teaching drew great crowds, who wondered whether he was the Christ (v. 15). John was preparing the way for the glory that superseded his own, the teaching and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. After centuries in which God spoke rarely, the words of John and Jesus were glorious lights to Israel and the world.

**John’s Preparing the Way.** John’s nation was being distressed by a foreign power and being corrupted by its own religious leaders. John’s task was to wake up those people and prepare them to go with Jesus to conquer the world through holiness and love. Isaiah’s words were appropriate to John’s situation.

**True Religion.** John made plain what the fear of God meant in daily living. John demanded that repentance produce results (v. 8). He taught that people must look to their deeds and not to their ancestors for righteousness (v. 8). He taught that all those who could should share with the poor (v. 11). He insisted that those in authority be honest (v. 12-14). These simple things would make the difference between life and destruction (v. 9, 17).

**Bearing Witness to Jesus’ Mission.** John was not alone when he spoke of Jesus’ mission (v. 16-17). Jesus had shown obedience and righteousness in being baptized by John (see Matthew 3:15). The Holy Spirit’s appearance and the Father’s voice showed God’s complete agreement in the work that Jesus set out to do after His baptism (v. 21-22). The genealogy in the last part of the chapter shows how God had prepared all of history for His work.

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

All of the gospels contain the story of John the Baptist. Matthew 3 is very similar to the first part of Luke 3. Mark 1:1-13 and John 1:19-34 are also accounts of John’s work. The genealogy in Luke 3:23-38 is supplemented by Matthew’s genealogy in 1:1-17.

**Quick Summary of Chapter 3:**

John the Baptist preaches, telling of the Christ

Jesus is baptized; the Holy Spirit descends

Jesus' genealogy from Adam is given

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

In this chapter Luke shows the preparation for Jesus to be the Savior of every man. John prepared Israel for His teaching of Jesus. Jesus’ baptism prepared Him for His ministry and showed the approval of the Father and the Holy Spirit. The genealogy of Jesus shows how He had the right to be the King of God’s people.

## Questions

1. As a historian, Luke dates the beginning of John's ministry by the reigns of how many different rulers?

(v. ) 1

2. What was the meaning of the baptism of John?

(v. ) 3

3. According to Luke's quotation of Isaiah 40:5, what would John's work of preparation allow all flesh (or mankind) to see?

(v. ) 6

4. John spoke of judgment upon Israel in v. 9. What did he say in a figure of speech about how soon this judgment would happen?

5. When the multitudes asked John what they should do, what did he tell them?

(v. ) 11

6. What did John tell the soldiers to do?

(v. ) 14

7. How did John describe the difference between himself and Jesus, who was to come after him?

(v. ) 16

8. What was John's point when he compared Christ to a man at a threshing floor in v. 17?

9. Why was John put in prison?

(v. ) 19-20

10. What happened when Jesus was baptized by John?

(v. ) 21-22

11. How old does Luke say Jesus was at the beginning of His ministry?

(v. ) 23

12. Matthew traces his genealogy to Abraham (1:1). How far back does Luke go?

(v. ) 38

13. Matthew wrote primarily to Jews and Luke wrote primarily to Gentiles. How might that have affected how far back their genealogies go?

14. Which lesson from Luke 3 is the most impressive to you? How can you apply this to your daily life?

15. What could you try to share from this chapter with someone who is not a Christian?

## Beginning His Mission

**Key Verse:** v. 18 - “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are downtrodden.”

Luke 4 tells us that Jesus began His earthly ministry by preaching in Galilee. We can see many of the themes of the book in this chapter. Jesus taught in various synagogues throughout Galilee and Judea (v. 14-15, 31, 43-44). He spoke of the kingdom of God (v. 43). He performed miracles (v. 35, 39-41). Some recognized the authority He and His message had (v. 32, 36); some did not and tried to kill Him (v. 29). Jesus confronted and defeated the devil and his agents (v. 3-13, 35, 41). He fulfilled prophecy (v. 18-21; see Isaiah 61:1-2). He spoke of the hope of the Gentiles (v. 26-27). Some of those themes are discussed more below.

**Jesus’ Power Over Evil.** Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit when He was baptized (v. 1). Shortly thereafter He went into the wilderness and was tempted by Satan. This was one of history’s greatest battles, with the hope of mankind hanging in the balance. Satan tried to tempt Jesus through His physical desires (v. 3), His desire for power and possessions (v. 5-6), and His desire to fulfill His pride (v. 9-11). Jesus used the word of God every time and won. They would face each other again at the cross. Jesus also defeated Satan’s demons (v. 35, 41).

**Proclaiming the Truth.** Jesus’ initial popularity did not come from telling people what they wanted to hear. He astonished the synagogue at Nazareth by claiming to fulfill Isaiah 61, which spoke of a great day of blessing for Israel (v. 21). The crowd was amazed until He also told them the truth about the Gentiles. He told them how God’s blessings were also for those outside Israel, such as the widow of Zarephath (v. 26; 1 Kings 17) and Naaman (v. 27; 2 Kings 5), even when Israel was not being blessed. This so enraged the people of Nazareth that they tried to kill Him. Jesus left to teach others who would listen.

**The Recognition of His Authority.** The attitude of the people toward Jesus’ word at this time was encouraging.. The people of Capernaum recognized His authority by His teaching (v. 32) and by His casting out a demon (v. 36). They understood that Jesus’ miracles were proof of His authority and not just spectacles.

**Quick Summary of Chapter 4:**

The devil tempts Jesus in the wilderness

The Jews of Nazareth try to kill Jesus

Jesus casts out a demon and heals Peter’s mother-in-law in Capernaum

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

Jesus’ temptation by Satan is recorded in Matthew 4:1-11 and more briefly in Mark 1:12-13. All of the gospels have a record of His Galilean ministry; the events from Luke 4 recorded elsewhere are Jesus’ casting the demon out in the synagogue (Mark 1:23-28) and His healing of Peter’s mother-in-law (Matthew 8:14-15; Mark 1:29-31).

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

In Chapter 4, Luke shows that Jesus fulfilled Isaiah’s prophecy and would bring salvation to Israel. Jesus then showed that the Gentiles would also be blessed. He was the Savior of every man.



## Questions

1. How long was Jesus fasting in the wilderness?

(v. ) 2

2. What did Satan offer Jesus if He would worship him?

(v. ) 5-7

3. When Satan tempted Jesus to jump from the pinnacle of the temple, Satan quoted Psalm 91:11-12. What do those verses say?

10-11

4. What did Satan do after Jesus had successfully resisted his temptations?

(v. ) 13

5. When Jesus read in the synagogue in Nazareth, he said that the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him (v. 18; see Isaiah 61:1). What was He supposed to do because of this?

18-19

6. Immediately after Jesus said He had fulfilled Isaiah 61, what was the attitude of His listeners?

(v. ) 22

7. Where did Jesus say no prophet would be welcome?

(v. ) 24

8. What two examples of righteous people did Jesus use in v. 26-27? Why did this make the people of Nazareth murderously angry?

9. What did Jesus do when the people in Nazareth wanted to throw Him off the cliff?

(v. ) 29-30

10. Who did the demon say Jesus was?

(v. ) 34

11. Whom did Jesus heal in Simon Peter's home?

(v. ) 38-39

12. What did Jesus command the demons He was casting out not to do?

(v. ) 35, 41

13. Why did Jesus say He had to leave the multitudes after He had cast out the demon?

(v. ) 42-43

14. Which lesson from Luke 4 is the most important to you? How can you apply this to your daily life?

15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## Calling His Disciples

**Key Verse:** v. 11 - “And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.”

In the fifth chapter Jesus called His disciples and began a new phase of His ministry. Jesus required complete dedication and He had the complete authority from God to require it. This was shown when He forgave the sins of a paralyzed man and then proved it by making him walk (v. 20, 24-25). Jesus also showed that He came to help all men by eating with the lower classes of society (v. 30); He would try to help anyone, but He would change His message for no one.

**Demonstrating His Power.** Jesus performed three miracles in the chapter. One demonstrated power over nature, and two over disease. After teaching the multitudes from Simon Peter’s boat, He brought the fishermen a miraculous catch of fish (v. 3-8). Peter realized his own unworthiness and asked Him to leave. Jesus told him to follow Him instead. Jesus also healed a man with leprosy (v. 12-14) and found himself so popular that He needed to get away from the crowds. Jesus also healed a paralyzed man whose friends had lowered him to Jesus through the roof (v. 17-26). As a result the people glorified and feared God. The miracles taught others about God while they helped people.

**Giving Up Everything.** A number of disciples left what they had in order to follow Jesus. Peter, James, and John left their boats and their fishing business (v. 11). They did not know what was ahead, except that Jesus would make them better men. Levi (Matthew) may have given up more; it may not have been hard to return to fishing (John 21:3-6), but a tax-gatherer (v. 27-28) had almost no chance of ever regaining that office. He started his new career by bringing others to Jesus. We may not have to give up our jobs to serve Jesus, but we must be willing to give up anything because we are better following Him.

**Choosing Not to Please Men.** Jesus had Pharisees and teachers from throughout Galilee and Judea in the crowd in the house in v. 17. He could have tried to gain support by telling them what would not upset them. He challenged their hearts and faith by healing the paralyzed man and showing that He could forgive sin. Some had accused Him of blasphemy, but many glorified God when they saw what He had done. Jesus also ate with Levi’s friends, tax-gatherers and sinners, to try to teach them the gospel (v. 29-35). The self-righteous scoffed at Him, but He persisted in helping those who would receive it. We need to tell the gospel to those that will hear it today no matter whom we might offend.

**Showing Who He Is.** Jesus showed who He was and is in His words and deeds. His miracle of the catch of fishes had a profound impact on Simon Peter. Jesus forgave sins in v. 20. Only God can do that; Jesus was and is God.

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

The account of Jesus’ cleansing the leper is also in Matthew 8:2-4 and Mark 1:40-44. Jesus healed the paralytic and called Matthew in Matthew 9:2-17 and Mark 2:2-22. Jesus called four disciples in Matthew 4:18-22 and Mark 1:16-20 (Luke does not mention Andrew and may be recording a later event).

**Quick Summary of Chapter 5:**

Jesus makes four fishermen His disciples

Jesus heals a leper and a paralytic

Jesus answers critics while eating at Matthew’s house

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

Luke shows that Jesus is the Savior of every man by His going to every man: the great teachers (v. 17); the sinners (v. 29); and a leper (v. 13). Jesus helped all of them who would let Him.

### Questions

1. What was Jesus doing when He found Peter, James, and John at the beginning of Chapter 5?  
(v. ) 1-2
2. How long had the fishermen been fishing unsuccessfully before Jesus came?  
(v. ) 5
3. After Peter saw the miracle of the catch of fish, what did he say to Jesus?  
(v. ) 8
4. What did Jesus say that these men would do instead of fish?  
(v. ) 10
5. What did Jesus do to the man with leprosy before saying, "I am willing; be cleansed"?  
(v. ) 13
6. What did Jesus tell the man he had healed of leprosy to do because he had been healed?  
(v. ) 14
7. How did the friends of the paralyzed man get him to Jesus despite the crowd?  
(v. ) 19
8. What was the first thing Jesus said to the paralyzed man?  
(v. ) 20
9. What greater truth did Jesus prove by having the paralyzed man rise and walk?  
(v. ) 24
10. Where was Levi (Matthew) when Jesus called him?  
(v. ) 27
11. Why did Jesus say He and His disciples ate with people that others thought were wrong?  
(v. ) 31-32
12. What did Jesus' disciples not practice that other groups (John's disciples, the Pharisees) did?  
(v. ) 33
13. The parable about patching an old piece of clothing with new fabric and the parable about putting new wine into old wineskins had a common theme. What was that?  
(v. ) 36-39
14. Which lesson from Luke 5 is most impressive to you? How can you apply this to your life?
15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## A New Rule for Living

**Key Verse:** v. 31 - “And just as you want people to treat you, treat them the same way.”

Throughout history, men have searched for great truths. Before Jesus, a few men had said, “Don’t do something to others if you don’t want them to do it to you.” Jesus said that was not enough. Jesus made a law of fairness into a law of love when He gave the Golden Rule. That is more important than the greatest inventions in history because it teaches men how to live more like God. In this sermon Jesus said a number of things about loving and giving that challenge us. Sometimes people want to talk about the exceptions to those principles, but concentrate on the positive applications in this chapter.

**Jesus and the Law.** The Pharisees loved the rules of the Old Testament so much that they made and enforced extra ones to prevent anyone from violating the real rules. Instead of love, they developed legalism. They attacked Jesus’ disciples for doing work on the Sabbath (v. 1-2; Exodus 35:1-2) when the disciples had broken neither the letter nor the spirit of the law. Jesus kept the Sabbath and showed Himself to be the Lord of it (v.5). Later, Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath (v. 7-10), showing that God approved of His actions. The scribes and Pharisees did not rejoice, but planned to harm Him (v.11). Jesus also said that His words were the basis of sound living in the Parable of the Wise Man and the Foolish Man (v. 47-49).

**True Joy and Sorrow.** In this version of the Beatitudes (see also Matthew 5:3-12) Jesus spoke of blessedness and woe in a spiritual sense. He spoke of blessings to those who were poor, hungry, and weeping (v. 20-21). These qualities are not inherently good, but they help set a person’s focus on what is beyond this life. Blessings also come to those who suffer for God (v. 22), and that should make us leap for joy (v.23). Jesus also warned those whose wealth, satisfaction, and popularity were all based on this world (v.24-26), because those things are shallow and will not last. True joy can only come by giving (v.38).

**The Attitude of the Christian.** Jesus taught about attitudes toward others in v. 27-37. Teachings like loving our enemies (v. 27) and turning the other cheek (v.29) can be incredibly difficult, as is giving with no expectation of return (v. 30, 35). Treating others as we want to be treated (v. 31) is the highest ideal. Showing mercy and not judging others (v. 36-37) are also important. The disciple of Christ must learn to meet these high standards. Jesus also taught that our actions show what is in our hearts (v. 43-45).

**Quick Summary of Chapter 6:**

Jesus says that He is Lord of the Sabbath

Jesus chooses the twelve

Jesus pronounces blessings and woes; He teaches how to treat enemies

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

The sermon in v. 20-49 is very similar to the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7, but the two are probably not from the same event. Jesus’ discussion of the Sabbath is recorded in Matthew 12:1-8 and Mark 2:23-28. The healing of the man with the withered hand is in Matthew 12:9-14 and Mark 3:1-6. The selection of the twelve is described in Matthew 10:1-4 and Mark 3:13-19.

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

Luke shows Jesus to be the Savior of every man through teaching. He gave blessings to the poor, hungry, sad, and rejected (v. 20-23). He gave the highest standard for relationships (v.31).

### Questions

1. Why did the Pharisees criticize Jesus' disciples for eating grain?  
(v. ) 2
2. What did Jesus ask His opponents before healing the man with the withered hand?  
(v. ) 9
3. Jesus did not need permission to heal the man. Why do you think He asked if it was lawful?
4. What did Jesus do immediately before calling the twelve apostles?  
(v. ) 12-13
5. Why did Jesus say that the poor were blessed?  
(v. ) 20
6. Why did Jesus tell the afflicted to be glad and leap for joy?  
(v. ) 23
7. Why did Jesus warn those who received praise from all men?  
(v. ) 26
8. In v. 27-28, what did Jesus say that His disciples should do to those who abused them?
9. What three things did Jesus say that even sinners would do in v. 32-34?
10. How did Jesus say that a man could be a son of the Most High (God)?  
(v. ) 35
11. How did Jesus describe the way in which a generous man would be repaid?  
(v. ) 38
12. What did Jesus call the man trying to remove a speck from his brother's eye?  
(v. ) 42
13. According to v. 47-48, how could a person be like the wise man who built on the rock?
14. Which lesson from Luke 6 means the most to you? How can you apply this to your daily life?
15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## Great Faith

**Key Verse:** v. 22 - “And He answered and said to them, ‘Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have the gospel preached to them.’”

In Luke 7 Jesus further showed His power with two miracles different than those mentioned before: He healed someone from far away (the centurion’s slave) and He raised a dead man (the widow’s son in Nain). Jesus also explained the role of John and the spiritual condition of Israel. He also told the Parable of Two Debtors which illustrated the love that comes from forgiveness. As he told the parable, He showed how He could help a sinful woman’s soul.

**Great and Saving Faith.** At each end of the chapter, Jesus said that individuals had great faith. In v. 9 He said that the centurion who believed that Jesus could heal someone from far away had a greater faith than He had found in Israel (perhaps less an insult to Israel than a compliment to the centurion). In v. 50 He told the sinful woman that her faith had saved her.

**Helping the Helpless.** Jesus’ miracles were meant to show His authority and the truth of His message, but He also used them to help people. The widow of Nain in v. 11-17 probably had no one left to support her. Jesus helped her by raising her dead son. The centurion’s slave was about to lose his life. Jesus gave that back to him in v. 10. More important was the spiritual restoration He gave to the sinful woman. She had no way out. The leaders of the Jews would not help her. Her money could not help her. Only Jesus and His forgiveness in v. 48 could help her. In this way Christ still helps the multitudes today who would be spiritually helpless without Him.

**The Proof That Jesus Was and Is the Christ.** Perhaps John did not understand why Jesus taught as He did. Perhaps he was discouraged in prison. Whatever his motivation, he sent people to ask Jesus if He was the Christ (v. 19). Jesus answered by His actions. His answer was that He healed those who needed healing and, more importantly, He preached the gospel to the poor (v.22). We cannot heal as Jesus did, but we can help. We can also preach the gospel to all men. If we are doing these things, we show that we are on Christ’s side.

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

The healing of the centurion’s slave is also found in Matthew 8:5-13. John’s question and Jesus’ discussion of John are recorded in Matthew 11:2-19.

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

In Chapter 7, Luke shows Jesus to be the Savior of every man by His preaching to the poor, helping all who needed help, and forgiving sins.

**Quick Summary of Chapter 7:**

Jesus heals a centurion's slave and a widow's son

John asks Jesus if He is the Christ; Jesus replies

A sinful woman anoints Jesus at Simon's house

## Questions

1. Why did the Jewish elders ask Jesus to heal the centurion's slave?  
(v.     ) 4-5
2. How was the way Jesus' healed the nobleman's son in John 4:49-53 similar to the way He healed the centurion's slave in v. 6-10?
3. What kinds of things did the people who saw Jesus raise the widow's son say?  
(v.     ) 16
4. What question did John ask Jesus from prison?  
(v.     ) 19
5. What special name did John use when asking Jesus who He was? What did it mean?  
(v.     ) 19-20
6. What did Jesus instruct John's disciples to give John as an answer to his question?  
(v.     ) 22-23
7. Jesus said that John was great, but He mentioned a group of people who would be greater than John. Who were they?  
(v.     ) 28
8. How did the common people react to the praise that Jesus gave John?  
(v.     ) 29
9. In v. 32, to whom did Jesus compare the people of His society? What was His point?
10. What did the men of His generation say about Jesus, the Son of Man, in v. 34?
11. What did the formerly sinful woman do to Jesus with the perfume she brought?  
(v.     ) 37-38
12. Why did Jesus say this woman had been forgiven of her sins?  
(v.     ) 47
13. What did Jesus say to the woman immediately before He told her to go in peace?  
(v.     )
14. Which lesson from Luke 7 stands out in your mind? How can you apply this to your daily life?
15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## Spreading the Word

**Key Verse:** v. 15 - “And the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.”

The eighth chapter of Luke contains two parables and four miracles. Jesus told the Parable of the Sower (v. 5-15) and the Parable of the Lamp (v. 16-18). Jesus calmed the sea (v. 22-25), healed a demon-possessed person (v. 26-39), healed the woman with a flow of blood (v. 43-48), and raised Jairus’ daughter (v. 49-56). Women play a prominent role in this chapter, from those who supported Jesus as He taught (v. 2-3) to the two he healed at the end of the chapter.

**Teaching About Spreading the Word.** The two parables Jesus told have the same lesson: the good news of the kingdom must be shared. Not to share it would be as ridiculous as lighting a lamp and then covering it up. Like the sower, we need to spread the word everywhere. It is our job to let everyone around us know of the word of God; this is how we will be judged. Some will not accept it and some will fall away, but we must keep being the good soil ourselves. If we spread the gospel, God will be faithful and cause our work to have a good result. He causes the growth (1 Corinthians 3:5-8).

**The Scope of Jesus’ Authority.** Jesus’ four miracles showed his power and His authority over four different things: over *nature* when He calmed the sea; over *the devil* when He cast the demon out of the man; over *disease* when He healed the woman with the flow of blood; and over *death* when He raised Jairus’ daughter. Jesus had power over everything, given to Him by His Father.

**Jesus the Rescuer.** Jesus rescued three women in three different ways in this chapter. Jesus rescued the woman with the hemorrhage from *uncleanness*. Jesus cast seven demons out of Mary Magdalene (v. 2) and rescued her from *the power of the devil*. Christ rescued Jairus’ daughter from *death*. Jesus will rescue every one of us from all of these things if we let Him. Like the three women, we are unable to rescue ourselves.

**Quick Summary of Chapter 8:**

Jesus tells and explains the Parable of the Sower

Jesus stills the wind and waves

Jesus casts the Gerasene man's demons into swine

Jesus raises Jairus' daughter

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

The Parable of the Sower is recorded in Matthew 13:3-23 and Mark 4:2-20. Jesus also spoke of His mother and His brothers in Matthew 12:46-50 and Mark 3:31-35. Jesus calmed the sea and healed the demon-possessed men in Matthew 8:23-34 and Mark 4:35-5:20. Jesus healed Jairus’ daughter and the woman with the hemorrhage in Matthew 9:18-26 and Mark 5:22-43.

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

Luke shows Jesus to be the Savior of every man and woman by recording the miracles that proved His authority over everything in the world.



## Questions

1. Who supported Jesus as He began to travel through the cities and villages?  
(v.     ) 1-3
2. How much of a return did the sower get from the seed that fell on the good soil?  
(v.     ) 8
3. Why did Jesus say that He taught most of the people with parables, according to v. 10?
4. What did the seed that fell among the thorns represent?  
(v.     ) 14
5. What did Jesus say people would do with a lamp in v. 16? What point was He making?
6. What did the disciples tell Jesus when they woke Him in the boat?  
(v.     ) 24
7. What was the reaction of the disciples after Jesus had calmed the sea?  
(v.     ) 25
8. The demons referred to Christ by a certain title in v. 28. What was it?
9. What did all the people who lived near the formerly demon-possessed man ask Jesus to do?  
(v.     ) 37
10. The man who had the demons wanted to go with Jesus. What did Jesus have him do instead?  
(v.     ) 39
11. What position did Jairus hold among the Jews?  
(v.     ) 41
12. What did Jesus say had made the woman with the flow of blood well?  
(v.     ) 48
13. After Jairus had been told of his daughter's death, what did Jesus tell him to do?  
(v.     ) 50
14. Which lesson from Luke 8 means the most to you? How can you apply this to your daily life?
15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## The Kingdom and the Suffering

**Key Verse:** v. 44 - “Let these words sink into your ears; for the Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.”

In the ninth chapter of Luke we see new themes in Jesus’ teaching. Jesus spoke more of the kingdom He had come to establish, but He also spoke of the suffering and death that was waiting for Him before He established it. Jesus also spoke of the difficulty of discipleship. At the end of the chapter, Jesus gave warnings to those who hesitated to follow Him completely. He also taught His disciples to be humble and obedient, like a child (v. 48), instead of trying to gain a high position. At this time He was also turning toward Jerusalem (v. 51); the crucifixion was perhaps a few months away.

**The Coming of the Kingdom.** Jesus began to teach much more about the kingdom of God in this chapter. The twelve were to proclaim that the kingdom was coming (v. 2). He taught about the kingdom before feeding the five thousand (v. 11). He said that the kingdom would come within the lifetime of some of His audience (v. 27). He spoke of proclaiming the kingdom as a task that must be done immediately in all places (v. 60, 62).

**The Identity of Jesus.** Some wondered if Jesus was John the Baptist; chief among those was Herod (v. 9). Others thought He was Elijah or one of the prophets of old (v. 19). This seemed like high praise, but Jesus was and is more. As Peter said, He is the Christ (v. 20). The voice of God declared Him to be greater than Moses and Elijah (v.30-35). As we have seen before and will see again in Luke’s writing, He was and is God.

**The Coming of Suffering.** Jesus knew early that He would have to suffer and die to accomplish His mission. His murder was not a chance occurrence or something thrust upon him suddenly. He predicted His death twice in this chapter. In v. 22 He said that the elders, chief priests and scribes would cause His death. In v. 44 He said He would be delivered into the hands of men. Each time His prediction came after an amazing display of power.

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

Jesus’ sending of the twelve is recorded in Matthew 10 and Mark 6:7-13. Herod’s interest in Jesus is in Matthew 14:1-2 and Mark 6:14-16. The Feeding of the Five Thousand is one of the few events in all four gospels (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:33-44; John 6:5-14). Jesus asked who men thought He was in Matthew 16:13-19 and Mark 8:27-29. The Transfiguration is recorded in Matthew 17:1-10 and Mark 9:2-9. Jesus healed the demon-possessed boy and predicted His own death in Matthew 17:14-23 and Mark 9:14-32.

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

In the ninth chapter Luke shows how Jesus was to be the Savior of every man by His bringing the kingdom of God to the multitudes through His death and resurrection.

**Quick Summary of Chapter 9:**

The twelve go out preaching; Herod is alarmed

Jesus feeds five thousand men

Jesus is transfigured, with Moses and Elijah appearing

The disciples desire greatness instead of service

## Questions

1. What two things did Jesus send the twelve to do, according to v. 2?  
(v. ) 7-9
2. Why was Herod so interested in all of the reports he had heard about Jesus?  
(v. ) 13,17
3. How much food did Jesus use to feed the five thousand? Was it enough?  
(v. ) 20
4. Who made the confession that Jesus was the Christ of God?  
(v. ) 27
5. In v. 27, what did Jesus say that some standing there would see before they died?  
(v. ) 31
6. What did Moses and Elijah say when they appeared with the transfigured Jesus?  
(v. ) 35
7. What did the voice of God say to Peter, James, and John out of the cloud?  
(v. ) 41
8. How did Jesus characterize the people of His day in v. 41?  
(v. ) 44
9. What did Jesus tell His disciples right after casting the demon out of the boy?  
(v. ) 47-48
10. What lesson was Jesus trying to teach the disciples with the example of a child?  
(v. ) 51
11. What clue about when these things were happening does Luke give us in v. 51?  
(v. ) 53
12. Why did the people in the Samaritan village refuse to accommodate Jesus?  
(v. ) 62
13. What did Jesus say to the one who wanted to go home and say good-bye before following Him?  
(v. ) 62
14. Which lesson from Luke 9 means the most to you? How can you apply this to your daily life?
15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## Sending Out the Seventy

**Key Verse:** v. 22 - “All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”

Jesus had sent out the twelve apostles in Luke 9; in Chapter 10 he sent seventy disciples to preach. Jesus has always depended on men to spread His word and continue His work. That work continues today with every Christian. If we preach as we should, we do our part for the cause of Christ as the seventy did (v. 17-18).

**The Importance of the Message.** The seventy were to go out as quickly as they could. They were to carry no extra baggage and take no extra time to greet people on the way (v. 4). Their message was that the kingdom of God was near (v.9). Jesus would follow and preach where they had prepared the people for Him (v. 1). Any city that did not listen to the disciples would be in more trouble than Sodom (v. 12; Genesis 19:24-25).

**The Behavior of the Messengers.** Jesus commanded the disciples to behave in a way that was consistent with the urgency of the message. They were to stay in one place and eat what was given to them, not search for a better place (v. 7-8). They were to reflect the integrity of their message by healing people (v. 9) and being innocent beyond doubt, like lambs (v. 3).

**True Service and Distractions from It.** Jesus had commanded the seventy to have no distractions. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan (v. 30-37), the priest and the Levite allowed their fear, selfishness, or other considerations to distract them from their more important service, helping the man who lay on the road to Jericho. Martha was distracted by serving Jesus in physical ways and missed her spiritual need (v. 40-42). Many things can distract us from our true mission, which is to grow spiritually and help people in need.

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

The material in this chapter is unique to Luke.

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

Luke shows Jesus to be the Savior of every man by recording how He spread His message to all men; part of this was teaching that goodness is not an inheritance but a choice, as in the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

**Quick Summary of Chapter 10:**

Jesus sends out seventy to preach

Those sent out return happily

Jesus tells the Parable of the Good Samaritan

**Questions**

1. Jesus said that the harvest was plentiful, but there was a problem. What was it?

(v.     ) 2

2. What was one of the seventy disciples to say whenever he entered a house?  
(v.     ) 5
3. What were members of the seventy to do if a town did not accept their message?  
(v.     ) 10-11
4. Which city or town did Jesus condemn in v. 15? Had He done much teaching there?  
4:31
5. When the seventy returned from their mission, what was their attitude?  
(v.     ) 17
6. What did Jesus tell the seventy was the real reason they should rejoice?  
(v.     ) 20
7. Why did Jesus praise His Father in v. 21?
8. What authority did Jesus claim to have received in v. 22?
9. When the lawyer (or expert in the Law) asked Jesus what to do to inherit eternal life, Jesus asked him what the Law said. What did the lawyer say? (Deuteronomy 6:5)  
(v.     ) 27
10. What question did Jesus answer with the Parable of the Good Samaritan?  
(v.     ) 29
11. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, who passed by the injured man? Who helped him?  
(v.     ) 31-34
12. How much money did the Samaritan give the innkeeper?  
(v.     ) 35
13. What was Mary doing that Jesus praised?  
(v.     ) 39, 42
14. Which lesson from Luke 10 is the most important to you? How can you apply this to your daily life?
15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## Jesus Teaches the Disciples to Pray

**Key Verse:** v. 42 - “But woe to you Pharisees! For you pay tithes of mint and rue and every kind of garden herb, and yet disregard justice and the love of God; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.”

Jesus’ generation was condemned because God’s teaching was easily available to them and they did not respond to it. As a contrast, Jesus spoke of the Queen of Sheba and how far she went to hear God’s truth (v. 31). Today, we have the truth of God so available to us all the time that we often take it for granted. If we do not obey it and try to tell others about it we will be condemned as the people of Jesus’ day were.

**Instruction in Prayer.** Jesus gave us a model prayer. It contained worship for the Father, a request that His will be fulfilled (v.2; this part of the prayer, the coming of the kingdom, has been fulfilled), a request for physical needs (v. 3), a request for forgiveness, a request for help in showing forgiveness, and a request for help concerning temptation (v. 4). Jesus also showed the importance of praying with persistence (v. 5-8) and demonstrated how willing God is to give (v. 9-13).

**Lights in the World.** The purpose of a lamp is to give light. If a lamp is hidden so that its light cannot be seen (v.33), it is not only useless but wasteful. Our lives must glow with the light of God. In a different analogy, Jesus also said that we must see clearly and rid ourselves of all evil for God’s light to be useful to us (v. 34-36).

**The Spirit of the Law.** The Pharisees and teachers of the Law often lived in strict adherence to the ceremonial laws while flaunting the eternal moral laws of God (v. 39-44). To an outside observer, the Pharisees seemed to obey all of the unimportant laws and break all of the important laws. The teachers of the Law (or lawyers) caused problems as well. They often endorsed a restrictive interpretation of the Law publicly but privately used “loopholes” they had invented to evade laws they did not like. These people totally missed the point of passages like Micah 6:6-8 about kindness, love, and humility. They left the people unclean (v. 44) and without knowledge (v. 52).

**Quick Summary of Chapter II:**

Jesus teaches about prayer

The Pharisees accuse Jesus of using demonic powers

Jesus pronounces woes upon Pharisees and lawyers

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

Matthew 12:22-30 and Mark 3:22-27 record parts of Jesus’ healing the man with a demon. Jesus spoke of men’s desire for signs in Matthew 12:38-45.

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

Luke shows Jesus to be the Savior of every man in the eleventh chapter by showing how He taught men to pray and how He was defeating the power of Satan.

## Questions

1. In Jesus' prayer (v. 2) He said, "hallowed be Thy name". What does that mean?
2. In Jesus' prayer what physical blessing was requested? How much of it was requested?  
(v. ) 3
3. What did Jesus say would happen to the man who asked, sought, and knocked?  
(v. ) 9-10
4. How did some people wrongly say Jesus was able to cast out demons?  
(v. ) 15
5. What did Jesus say must be true if He could cast out demons by the finger of God?  
(v. ) 20
6. How are v. 23 and Luke 9:50 related? What do these verses imply when combined?
7. After a woman in the crowd said Jesus' mother was blessed, who did Jesus say was truly blessed?  
(v. ) 27-28
8. Jesus said that the only sign His generation would be given was the sign of Jonah. What did He mean by that? (See also Matthew 12:39-40)  
(v. ) 29-30
9. Jesus spoke of keeping the eye clear in v. 34-36. What spiritual point was he making?
10. What did Jesus say that the Pharisees loved to have in this world?  
(v. ) 43
11. What did Jesus say that the lawyers (teachers of the Law) did to their listeners?  
(v. ) 46,52
12. What did Jesus say would be charged against His generation?  
(v. ) 49-51
13. What was the scribes' and Pharisees' reaction to the woes that Jesus pronounced?  
(v. ) 53-54
14. Which lesson from Luke 11 is the most prominent in your mind? How can you apply this to your daily life?
15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## The Danger of Greed

**Key Verse:** v. 34 - “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

In Luke 12, Jesus began to describe what was in store for His followers. Various authorities would put them on trial (v. 11). Men would try to kill them (v. 4). This would happen in part because the disciples would reveal great truths (v. 2-3). The care of God would protect them. God would help them with what to say when they were on trial (v. 12). God would accept them as His servants (v. 8). God would always look out for them with a knowledge and care that knew no bounds (v. 6-7). God cares for us today in a similar way if we serve Him.

**Greed Denounced.** A man in the crowd called out for Jesus to tell his brother to give him some of the inheritance (v.13). Jesus had no interest in satisfying someone’s desire for possessions. Jesus made three points about greed. In the Parable of the Rich Fool, Jesus showed the folly of trusting in wealth and neglecting God (v. 16-21). Jesus also used the birds and the flowers to show how God’s care for even the small things should assure men He cares for them (v. 22-28). Christ also told men that seeking the kingdom should cause them to be more giving (v. 32-33).

**Readiness Demanded.** Jesus told His listeners that they should be ready because He would come back when they did not expect Him (v. 40). He used the example of slaves having to stay up through the night for their master (v. 36-38), as in the Parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. Today our lives must show our continual readiness for when Jesus comes again, or we may be as unprepared as the rich fool of whom Jesus spoke.

**Division Because of Christ.** Today churches and teachers usually stress the positive aspects of Jesus’ kingdom while neglecting the negative aspects. Jesus made clear that His kingdom would cause division when some would not accept it (v. 51). Jesus taught that families would be torn apart. God has always wanted families to be together (Malachi 2:10-16), but God demands worship even when offering it causes problems at home (v. 52-53).

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

Almost all of Jesus’ teaching in Chapter 12 is unique to Luke; some individual statements, such as v. 1, 10, are repeated elsewhere (such as Matthew 16:6).

**Quick Summary of Chapter 12:**

Jesus tells the crowd not to worry

Jesus tells a parable to warn against covetousness

Jesus warns His listeners to be ready

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

Luke shows that Jesus is the Savior of every man by His revealing the truth (v. 2-3) and bringing men to the kingdom of God (v. 31-32).

**Questions**

1. What did Jesus say would happen to the words the disciples spoke in the inner rooms?

(v.     ) 3



2. How did Jesus describe how well God knows us in v. 7?
3. What did Jesus say would not be forgiven?  
(v.     ) 10
4. What did Jesus warn against in v. 15?
5. Why was the rich fool's desire to store up all of his possessions so bad?  
(v.     ) 20-21
6. What was Jesus trying to teach with the example of the beauty of the lilies?  
(v.     ) 27-28
7. What did Jesus say the Father will give us if we seek His kingdom?  
(v.     ) 30-31
8. What were Jesus' listeners to do with their possessions?  
(v.     ) 33
9. What did Jesus say the master would do for the slaves who waited through the night to be ready for him?  
(v.     ) 36-38
10. When did Jesus say that He (the Son of Man) was coming again?  
(v.     ) 40
11. What would happen to the slave who acted as if his master would not be coming back?  
(v.     ) 45-46
12. What was Jesus' answer to whether He had come to bring peace on earth?  
(v.     ) 51
13. What did Jesus say that the people of His generation were failing to understand in v. 56?
14. Which lesson from Luke 12 is the most important to you? How can you apply this to your daily life?
15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## Helping Men Understand the Kingdom

Key Verses: v. 3 and 5 - "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

Jesus thought that the point in the Key Verses above was so important that He said it twice. He was using the news of the murder of some Galileans by Pilate to illustrate that all who would not repent of their sins would face destruction. Jesus made clear that this would not only apply to those whom the world thought were bad (v. 2, 4), but all who did not repent. This is also true of men today.

**The Patience of God.** Jesus told the Parable of the Fig Tree (v. 6-9) to show God's patience. A man had planted a fig tree and expected it to bear fruit, but the tree produced none. The keeper of the vineyard asked him to give it one more chance, and he did. When we produce no fruit in our spiritual lives, we are like that fig tree. The tree was useless and it also wasted what might have been used for good. God, like the keeper of the vineyard, is patient and gives us every chance to be fruitful, but if we fail to produce, we will be cut off. That happened to the Jewish nation and can happen to those in the church today.

**How Men Treat God's Blessings.** Jesus also healed a woman who had been bent over by an evil spirit for eighteen years (v. 11). He restored her health and daily life, and she glorified God (v. 13). He did this in a synagogue on the Sabbath; the official there was indignant, telling people not to be healed then. This miracle greatly helped the woman and was obviously approved by God; the synagogue official would have caused her to suffer longer just to satisfy his opinions about the Sabbath or to allow him to direct the service his own way. Jesus rebuked that man and others who would help animals but not men on the Sabbath (v. 15-16). When we disobey God's law, we spurn Him in the same way that official did.

**How the Kingdom Grows.** Jesus gave a number of illustrations about the kingdom of God in Chapter 13. In the Parable of the Mustard Seed (v. 19) He showed how the kingdom would grow into something large though it would start small. In the Parable of the Leaven (v. 21) He showed how it would spread throughout the world and change it. Later He taught that it would be hard to enter (v. 24), that it would only be open for a finite time (v. 25), but that it would attract people from all over the world (v. 29).

**Quick Summary of Chapter 13:**

Jesus teaches about the importance of repentance

Jesus heals a woman on the Sabbath

Jesus teaches in villages on His way to Jerusalem

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

The Parable of the Mustard Seed is also recorded in Matthew 13:31-32 and Mark 4:30-32. The Parable of the Leaven is told in Matthew 13:33.

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

Luke shows Jesus to be the Savior of every man by His urging men to repent (v. 1-5), His casting out an evil spirit (v. 11-13), and His foretelling His death and resurrection (v. 32-35).

## Questions

1. What did Jesus say about the Galileans killed by Pilate and the people killed when the tower fell?

(v. ) 2-5

2. What did the keeper of the vineyard want to do for the barren fig tree?

(v. ) 8

3. What does the Parable of the Fig Tree have to do with repentance?

4. How long had the woman who was bent over by a spirit been sick?

(v. ) 11

5. What did the woman do when Jesus healed her?

(v. ) 13

6. Why did Jesus use the example of giving water to animals on the Sabbath?

(v. ) 15-16

7. How is the kingdom of God like a mustard seed growing into a tree?

(v. ) 19

8. What does Matthew 13:31-32 tell us about the size of mustard seeds and plants?

9. How is the kingdom of God like a woman mixing leaven into dough?

(v. ) 21

10. What question prompted Jesus to say, "Strive to enter by the narrow door; ..."?

(v. ) 23-24

11. How did Jesus illustrate that there would be many nations in the kingdom (church)?

(v. ) 29

12. Why did the Pharisees tell Jesus to leave the area?

(v. ) 31

13. What did Jesus want to do for Jerusalem? Would the people there let Him do it?

(v. ) 34

14. Which lesson from Luke 13 impresses you most? How can you apply this to your daily life?

15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## Teaching About Discipleship

**Key Verse:** v. 26 - “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.”

Jesus spoke difficult words in the verse above. We know that God does not want us to literally hate those people; Jesus was saying that we must love Him so much more than those people that it is as if we hate them by comparison (compare John 12:25). No mere man would have had a right to say this. Jesus could have only said this truthfully if He were God, which He was and is. Jesus also told His listeners to carry a cross, as He would (v. 27); to count the cost, as He had (v. 28-32); and to be ready to give up all they owned, as He had emptied Himself to come to earth (v. 33; Philippians 2:5-8).

**Attending and Giving a Feast.** Anyone who thought Jesus was just dispensing practical advice about seating oneself at the lowest place at a feast (v. 8-11) was missing the point. Jesus took the wisdom of Proverbs 25:6-7 and extended it to show the importance of humility and how humility would lead to glory. Also, Jesus was not trying to keep friends and family from dining together in v. 12-14. He was stressing the importance of sharing with all people and being generous. Some people in their pride or greed would only invite men of importance to eat with them, but Jesus wanted His followers to associate with the humble and let the glory come from God.

**A Parable of a Feast.** Jesus told this parable about a man who was spurned by his invited guests in v. 16-24. Jesus told this parable after a man near Him had said, “Blessed is everyone who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!” This man may have assumed that as a Jew he would be one of those in the kingdom. Jesus used the parable to show that God was graciously offering the Jews a place in the kingdom and they were rejecting it. God would then fill the kingdom with those who the Jews thought were beneath them.

**Healing Again on the Sabbath.** As in Chapter 13, Jesus healed a sick person on the Sabbath (v. 1-4). As then, He compared what was allowed in helping an animal to what should be done for the greater need of a person (v. 5). He gave His listeners a chance to object, as in Luke 6:6-11. Jesus knew what would happen as a result of this, but He did it anyway, because He was willing to suffer for others’ sake.

**Quick Summary of Chapter 14:**

Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath at a meal

Jesus tells a parable about a dinner with too few guests

Jesus talks about the hardship of being a disciple

**Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:**

All of the material in Chapter 14 is unique to Luke, though the parable about the dinner in v. 16-24 is similar to Matthew 22:1-14.

**How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:**

In this chapter Luke shows that Jesus is the Savior of every man through His parables. With them Jesus taught that He had come to bring everyone in the world into His fellowship (v. 12-14, 16-24). He also taught that the righteous would be resurrected in v. 14.

## Questions

1. In v. 1, what position did Jesus' host hold?  
  
(v. ) 1-2
2. Who was watching Jesus at the feast? Why were they watching?  
  
(v. ) 3
3. What question did Jesus ask His listeners before healing the sick man?  
  
(v. ) 10
4. What place did Jesus tell members of His audience to take at a feast?  
  
(v. ) 11
5. What would happen to the person who humbled himself?  
  
(v. ) 13-14
6. When would those who invited the poor and afflicted to their feasts be repaid?  
  
(v. ) 15
7. What was the comment that prompted Jesus to begin the parable that starts in v. 16?  
  
(v. ) 18-20
8. What kind of excuses did those invited to the feast give to the slave?  
  
(v. ) 21-23
9. Who were the people that the master used to fill his house for the feast?  
  
(v. ) 26-27
10. Whom did Jesus say a person had to hate to be His disciple?  
  
(v. ) 27
11. What did Jesus also say a person had to do to be His disciple in v. 27?  
  
(v. ) 28-32
12. What two examples did Jesus use for counting the cost of discipleship?  
  
(v. ) 33
13. What did Jesus also say a person had to do to be His disciple in v. 33?  
  
(v. ) 33
14. Which lesson from Luke 14 impresses you most? How can you apply this to your daily life?  
  
(v. ) 33
15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?  
  
(v. ) 33

## Parables About the Lost

**Key Verse:** v. 7 - “I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

The fifteenth chapter of Luke is composed of three parables about things that are lost and found. In the first parable (v. 3-7), a shepherd had left his flock to look for his lost sheep and rejoiced when he found it. In the second parable (v. 8-10), a woman had lost a coin and celebrated when she found it. In the third parable (v. 11-32), a son had taken his inheritance early and wasted it. After he had realized his sin, he came home to a loving father. When these parables of grace and mercy are contrasted with the arrogant and unforgiving Pharisees and scribes (v. 1-2), God’s love shines even more brightly.

**The God Who Seeks.** Many of us would be happy with keeping 99% of our sheep or all but one of our coins, but God is not satisfied with that. He does not want anyone to be lost (2 Peter 3:9). The first two parables show that God is watching out for us and doing everything He can to bring us back when we fail to follow Him. In both parables, bringing just one back to its place was the cause of a heavenly celebration.

**The Man Who Returns.** In the third parable, we see the necessity of repentance. After man has sinned, he must decide to return to God as the Prodigal Son did. God watches for us, as the father in the parable did (v. 20), but He requires that we take a step back to Him on our own. Sometimes other men will be unwilling to forgive, like the older brother (v. 28-30), but God will always take us back with open arms.

**Synthesis.** The meaning of the chapter is found when both themes are put together. God will seek us out diligently when we stray from Him. When we sin, we must decide to return to God in order to be forgiven. God’s offering forgiveness is far greater than our asking for it, but our turning back to Him is required. When God’s searching and our repentance meet, we are restored to joy and service and all in heaven exult in our return.

**Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:**

A shorter version of the Parable of the Lost Sheep is in Matthew 18:12-14.

**How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:**

Luke shows Jesus to be the Savior of every man in the fifteenth chapter by recording three parables about His seeking every lost person.

**Quick Summary of Chapter 15:**

Jesus tells parables about a lost sheep and a lost coin

Jesus tells the Parable of the Prodigal Son

**Questions**

1. The Pharisees and scribes became upset when which groups of people came to hear Jesus?

(v.     ) 1-2

2. What did the man do with the ninety-nine sheep while he searched for the one?  
(v.     ) 4
3. How did the shepherd handle the sheep he had found in v. 5? What was his attitude?
4. What did the woman do when she realized that she had lost one of her coins?  
(v.     ) 8
5. What did Jesus say causes joy among the angels of God?  
(v.     ) 10
6. How did the younger son spend his inheritance?  
(v.     ) 13
7. What job did the younger son get once he had wasted his inheritance?  
(v.     ) 15
8. Why would the younger son's job be repulsive to Jesus' Jewish listeners (see Leviticus 11:7)?
9. What did the younger son want his father to do for him when he returned?  
(v.     ) 19
10. What did the younger son confess to his father?  
(v.     ) 21
11. What did the father do for the younger son when he returned?  
(v.     ) 22-23
12. What did the older son complain that the father had never done for him?  
(v.     ) 29
13. Why did the father tell the older son that they were compelled to rejoice for his brother?  
(v.     ) 32
14. Which lesson from Luke 15 means the most to you? How can you apply it to your daily life?
15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## The Money-Lovers

**Key Verse:** v. 13 - “No servant will serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

Jesus told a story with a rich man in it at each end of Chapter 16. The Parable of the Unrighteous Steward (v. 1-13) suggests that Christians need to use their money as carefully and as purposefully as the world does. The story of the Rich Man and Lazarus (v. 19-31) tells what happened after death to an evil rich man and a righteous poor man. The story tells us to work for the true riches of the next life instead of chasing after more of this world’s money.

**The Shrewd Steward.** A steward was about to be fired for wastefulness. His last actions were to reduce the sums owed by his master’s debtors so that they would feel indebted to him and take care of him after he was removed from his job. Many wonder why his master commended him in v. 8. The master did not commend him for his dishonesty, but because he was shrewd in his use of money. Many Christians do not use the money they have properly, and much of the good that they could do never comes to be. Christians need to be wise in their use of money so they can prepare themselves to obtain the riches of the next life (v. 9). We must never be so taken with money that we forget God (v. 13).

**The Strength of the Law.** Jesus started teaching about the kingdom of God, which was better than the Old Law. He did not come to destroy any of the Law, but to fulfill all of it (v. 17; Matthew 5:17). God’s words would not perish. It is interesting that Jesus’ teaching on divorce and remarriage came here (v. 18). It may have occurred there because God’s teaching on the subject was part of the Law that man was trying to abolish or ignore but that Christ would fulfill.

**The Man Who Thought Himself Superior.** The sin of the rich man in this story (v. 19-31) was much the same as the rich fool’s sin in 12:16-21. He would not share with those in need. When he died and went to his torment, he saw Abraham and a poor man, Lazarus, in a place of comfort. After death, what was really important became much more clear to him. The rich man wanted Abraham to dispatch Lazarus for his or his family’s needs (v. 24, 27-28). At the end of the story, Abraham’s remark, “neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead”, foreshadows Christ’s resurrection (v. 31).

**Quick Summary of Chapter 16:**

Jesus tells the Parable of the Unrighteous Steward

Jesus teaches about the permanence of His doctrine

Jesus tells the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

While no other gospel records the events of this chapter, many of Jesus’ sayings are found in a similar form in other gospels: v. 13 in Matthew 6:24; v. 17 in Matthew 5:18; and v. 18 in Matthew 5:32, 19:9, and Mark 10:11.

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

Luke shows that Jesus is the Savior of every man by His concern for poor men like Lazarus (v. 23). Jesus also prophesied His own resurrection (v. 31).



## Questions

1. Why was the rich man upset with his steward?  
(v. ) 1
2. How much of the debt that was measured in oil did the unjust steward forgive?  
(v. ) 6
3. What did Jesus say that being faithful in a little thing would indicate?  
(v. ) 10
4. What did Jesus say no servant could do?  
(v. ) 13
5. When the Pharisees scoffed at the parable, what did Jesus say God knew about them?  
(v. ) 14-15
6. Until what point was the Old Testament (the Law and the Prophets) preached?  
(v. ) 16
7. What did Jesus say was easier than to make the smallest part of the Law fail?  
(v. ) 17
8. What sin did Jesus say a man who divorced and married another committed?  
(v. ) 18
9. What does Matthew 19:9 add to Jesus' teaching about divorce in v. 18 of this chapter?
10. What does Mark 10:11-12 add to Jesus' teaching about divorce and remarriage in v. 18?
11. Where did Lazarus go when he died? Where did the rich man go?  
(v. ) 22-23
12. What two things did the rich man ask Abraham to have Lazarus do?  
(v. ) 24, 27-28
13. To whom did Abraham say the rich man's brothers should listen as a warning?  
(v. ) 29
14. Which lesson from Luke 16 can you apply to your daily life?
15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## The Coming of the Kingdom

**Key Verse:** v. 24 - “For just as the lightning, when it flashes out of one part of the sky, shines to the other part of the sky, so will the Son of Man be in His day.”

Jesus called people who would teach others to sin stumbling blocks (v. 1-2). To remove them from His kingdom, Jesus taught two principles: the need to rebuke a brother who is sinning and the need to forgive a brother who repents (v. 3). Jesus’ kingdom would not be destroyed as the nation of Israel would soon be.

**Increasing Faith.** The apostles asked Jesus to increase their faith (v. 5). First, Jesus answered them by giving them an example of what faith could do (v. 6). The apostles were told that they could uproot a deep-rooted tree with a word. We cannot work miracles today, but we can do great things if we have faith and work toward our goals. Jesus also pointed out that following the commands of God was something they were obliged to do (v. 7-10).

**Healing the Ten Lepers.** Jesus healed ten men with leprosy while going to Jerusalem. They all had called out to Him and asked for mercy (v. 13). Only one, a Samaritan, thanked Him (v. 16). Christ used this to show that many men were not thankful and the Jews were not always the ones who pleased God (v. 17-18).

**The Powerful Coming of the Kingdom.** Jesus had already mentioned the kingdom of God about twenty times in His teaching. At this point He was pressed by the Pharisees to tell when the kingdom would come (v. 20). He told His listeners several important things about the kingdom:

- *The kingdom was not what they were expecting.* It was a dominion not of lands but of souls. It was not earthly but heavenly. Jesus implied this when He taught that the kingdom was already in their midst (v. 21).
- *The kingdom would come powerfully.* The language in v. 22-33 describes how the kingdom would come when it was fully revealed. It would be powerful, like the flood (v. 26-27; see Genesis 7) and the destruction of Sodom (v. 28-29; see Genesis 19). The power of the kingdom, made up of God’s people with Christ at their head, is earthshaking.
- *The kingdom would be revealed suddenly.* The kingdom was already present, but when the full revelation appeared it would be as quick as lightning (v. 24). No one would be able to hesitate when the time came (v. 31-33).
- *The kingdom would not be for everyone.* The leader of this kingdom would be rejected by the Jews (v. 25). When the kingdom came with power, some would be in it and some would not (v. 34-36).

This teaching about the kingdom has much in common with Chapter 21, Matthew 24, and Mark 13. Those chapters show that Israel’s special status before God would end (Romans 9:6-8). The church is the kingdom on earth.

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

The coming of the kingdom is also described in Luke 21:5-36 as well as Matthew 24 and Mark 13.

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

**Quick Summary of Chapter 17:**

Jesus teaches about stumbling blocks and faith

Jesus cleanses ten lepers; one thanks Him

Jesus teaches about His powerful coming in His kingdom

Luke shows Jesus to be the Savior of every man by His teaching people to forgive (v. 3-4), His healing a Samaritan (v. 12-19), and His protecting His servants in the midst of danger (v. 33).

### Questions

1. What fate did Jesus say was better than becoming a stumbling block in v. 2?  
(v.     ) 3
2. What should we do if our brother sins? What should we do if he repents?  
(v.     ) 10
3. What did Christ teach that we should say when we have followed every commandment?  
(v.     ) 13
4. What did the ten lepers cry out to Jesus?  
(v.     ) 15-16
5. What did the Samaritan who had been a leper do when he saw that he had been healed?  
(v.     ) 19
6. What did Jesus say had made the Samaritan well?  
(v.     ) 20
7. Who had asked Jesus when the kingdom of God was coming?  
(v.     ) 21
8. Where did Jesus say the kingdom of God was in v. 21?
9. What would happen to the Son of Man before His day came, according to v. 24-25?
10. What kinds of things would men be doing when the Son of Man would be revealed?  
(v.     ) 28-30
11. What relevance does the mention of Lot's wife in v. 32 have to the previous verses?
12. What would happen to the man who tried to save his own life on that day?  
(v.     ) 33
13. What might happen to two women grinding at a mill when Christ would be revealed?  
(v.     ) 35
14. Which lesson from Luke 17 is most impressive to you? How can you apply this to your life?
15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## Making Requests of God

**Key Verse:** v. 7 - “Now shall not God bring about justice for His elect, who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them?”

After discussing the frightening aspects of the revelation of the Son of Man at the end of Chapter 17, Jesus told His apostles a parable that would help them to stand firm. An unjust judge decided to treat a woman justly not because she was right, but because of her persistence (v. 2-5). Jesus pointed out that if a wicked man could be made to provide justice for another person, a loving God would certainly be willing to avenge one of His chosen people (v. 6-8). Throughout the chapter we read about prayer and how to make it effective.

**An Ineffective Prayer.** Jesus told the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican (v. 9-14) to those who viewed themselves as superior. A Pharisee spent his time in prayer telling God how much better he was than other men. He was keeping the Law and doing extra good works and he wanted to make sure God and everyone else knew it. His prayer was mostly to himself and his worship was also mostly self-directed. The tax-gatherer, a man rejected by society, spent a few seconds repenting of his sins and truly pleased God (v. 14). Jesus was teaching about humility, much as He had with His discussion of taking the lowest seat in 14:7-11.

**A Faith in Possessions.** A ruler came to Jesus and asked what he should do to get eternal life. Jesus told him to begin with keeping the Law (v. 20). The ruler said that he had done that and wanted to know what else to do. Jesus told him to sell his possessions and give the money to the poor, but that made the man sad (v. 22-23). This man asked Jesus for help in pleasing God, but apparently lacked the faith to carry out what Jesus said to do. He was attached to his possessions. The disciples had truly given up possessions to follow Christ, and they would be abundantly rewarded for their faith (v. 28-30).

**A Faith that Brought Sight.** A blind man (Mark 10 tells us his name was Bartimaeus) was begging when Jesus came by. When he found out that it was Jesus passing by, he cried to Him for mercy repeatedly (v. 38-39); that was like what the widow did earlier in this chapter. Jesus, true to God’s promise, stopped and healed him. Bartimaeus’ faith in God, shown in his persistent asking, made him well (v. 42).

**Quick Summary of Chapter 18:**

Jesus tells of the Pharisee and the tax gatherer

Jesus meets a rich ruler who will not give up all he has

Jesus heals a blind beggar

**Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:**

Jesus’ blessing the children is also in Matthew 19:13-15 and Mark 10:13-16. The rich young ruler’s story is also told in Matthew 19:16-30 and Mark 10:17-31. Jesus predicted His death and resurrection in Matthew 20:17-19 and Mark 10:32-34. Healing the blind man is also in Matthew 20:29-34 and Mark 10:46-52.

**How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:**

Luke shows that Jesus is the Savior of every man in Luke 18 by recording His teaching about how to pray and receive God’s help (v. 6-8) and His giving that help to a blind man (v. 35-43).

## Questions

1. What was the purpose behind Jesus' telling the Parable of the Unjust Judge?  
(v.     ) 1
2. Why did the unjust judge eventually grant the widow protection?  
(v.     ) 5
3. How quickly did Jesus say God would bring justice for His people?  
(v.     ) 8
4. What works did the Pharisee in Jesus' parable (v. 9-14) cite to show his own piety?  
(v.     ) 11-12
5. Jesus' point in that parable (v. 14) was the same as in which other parable in Chapter 14?  
(14:    ) 7-11
6. What lesson did Jesus teach about the kingdom when little children were brought to Him?  
(v.     ) 16-17
7. How did Jesus respond when the ruler referred to Him as "Good Teacher"?  
(v.     ) 18-19
8. Jesus told the rich ruler that he needed to do one more thing. What was it?  
(v.     ) 22
9. How hard did Jesus say it was for a wealthy man to enter the kingdom of God?  
(v.     ) 25
10. What did Jesus say those who had given up possessions for Him would receive?  
(v.     ) 29-30
11. What was the reaction of the twelve apostles when Jesus said He would be killed?  
(v.     ) 34
12. What did the blind man at Jericho do when others told him to be quiet?  
(v.     ) 39
13. What did the (formerly) blind man do as soon as he had received his sight?  
(v.     ) 43
14. Which lesson from Luke 18 impresses you most? How can you apply this to your daily life?
15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## The Journey to Jerusalem

**Key Verse:** v. 10 - “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

The period of teaching and traveling that had started years before would soon conclude. As Jesus completed His journey to Jerusalem, He showed that He had come to save all men and that He was a king of peace.

**Saving One and All.** Zaccheus was a chief tax collector in Jericho (v. 1-2). He made the effort to climb a tree just to see Jesus (v. 4). Jesus stopped and told Zaccheus that he needed to be with Him right away (v. 5). After some criticized Jesus for eating with a man that they considered a sinner, Zaccheus showed how Jesus had changed him by promising to help the poor and restore anything that he had taken wrongfully (v. 7-8). Zaccheus’s response was the opposite of the rich young ruler’s (18:18-23). Jesus used this occasion to state His purpose: seeking and saving every man (v. 10).

**Working with What We Have.** Jesus told the parable found in v. 11-27 to encourage His servants to work instead of just waiting for the kingdom. A nobleman gave some of his slaves the same amount of money to invest while he was away for a long period of time. One slave did very well, one did well, and one did nothing at all with the money. The one who did nothing with what he had was condemned (v. 22-23). A few lessons come from this parable. First, Christianity is not about just waiting for Christ to come, it is about working for Christ until He comes. Second, we can please God even if we are not as talented or successful as other Christians. Finally, those who do not use what they have will have it taken away and given to those who produce (see also the Parable of the Fig Tree, 13:6-9).

**The King of Peace in Jerusalem.** Verse 28 marks a substantial shift in Luke. The period of teaching with the disciples was over and the events leading to the crucifixion had begun. Jesus came into Jerusalem acclaimed by the common people. He came on a donkey, showing that He came in peace (see Matthew 21:5; Zechariah 9:9-10). The leaders of Judah rejected His leadership and denied themselves that peace (v. 41-44). Christ purified the house of God (v. 45-46), where the leaders of the people should have accepted Him, but instead they tried to destroy Him (v. 47). Jesus’ kingdom and His peace were misunderstood in His day, and still are.

**Quick Summary of Chapter 19:**

Jesus meets Zaccheus, who reforms himself

Jesus tells a parable about servants with money

Jesus enters Jerusalem triumphantly

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem is recorded in Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-10, and John 12:12-18. The cleansing of the temple is in Matthew 21:12-13 and Mark 11:15-18 (John 2:13-17 might have been a different incident).

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

Verse 10 exemplifies Luke’s overall theme: Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Salvation was offered to Zaccheus (v. 9) and to the nation of the Jews (v. 42).

Zaccheus accepted the offer, but the majority of the Jews refused and would be destroyed (v. 43-44).

### Questions

1. What did Zaccheus and Levi (or Matthew; see 5:27) have in common?  
(v. ) 2
2. What did Jesus tell Zaccheus that He had to do that day?  
(v. ) 5
3. How did Zaccheus respond when others complained that he was a sinner?  
(v. ) 8
4. Why did Jesus tell the Parable of the Minas (v. 11-27)?  
(v. ) 11
5. What were the slaves supposed to do with the money while their master was gone?  
(v. ) 13
6. What did the man who had done nothing with his mina use as an excuse?  
(v. ) 21
7. Why did the master say he was giving another mina to the slave who had ten?  
(v. ) 26
8. Where did Jesus tell His disciples to find the colt He was to ride?  
(v. ) 30-31
9. When asked why they were untying the colt, what did the disciples say?  
(v. ) 34
10. How was Zechariah 9:9 fulfilled in Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem?
11. How did the crowd refer to Jesus in v. 38?
12. What did Jesus say would happen to Jerusalem because it had rejected Him?  
(v. ) 43-44
13. Why did Jesus say that He was casting the merchants out of the temple?  
(v. ) 46
14. Which lesson from Luke 19 means the most to you? How can you apply this to your daily life?
15. What could you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## The Day of Debates

**Key Verse:** v. 25 - “And He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.””

Only a few days before His crucifixion, Jesus entered into a series of debates with the leaders of the Jews. Many different authority figures tried to trap or trick Him and show that He was not better than they were, but Jesus avoided every snare and showed that His accusers were the ones without righteousness or integrity. Jesus’ answers are beautiful in their simplicity and marvelous in their wisdom. After the debate, the rulers and Christ had finished their discussion. Jesus had vividly shown the wisdom and power of God. The rulers could have accepted it and submitted to Him or could have rejected it and tried to kill Him. They chose the latter.

**Authority to Teach.** The *chief priests, scribes, and elders* challenged Jesus first. They asked Jesus where he had gotten the authority to teach what He did (v. 1-2). Jesus responded with a question about the authority of John’s teaching (v. 3-4). He did this not to score points in the debate but to show that the leaders had no right to ask the question. Jesus’ miracles were sufficient proof of His authority and message. He showed that the leaders were not honest enough to answer a simple question about John and thus had no right to be leaders. Jesus followed this with the Parable of the Vineyard Keepers (v. 9-16), which showed that the leaders of God’s people had failed and would be replaced.

**Religious Duty and Civil Authority.** Mark 12:13 tells us the *Pharisees* and the *Herodians* were involved in trying to trap Jesus next. They asked Jesus whether paying tax to Caesar was acceptable (v. 22). If Jesus had said yes, the Pharisees would have condemned Him as disloyal; if He had said no, the Herodians and the Romans would have rightly condemned Him as a lawbreaker. Jesus skillfully went got to the heart of the matter: civil government has its needs, but God’s work must not be neglected (v. 25).

**The Resurrection.** The *Sadducees* made the final attempt at trapping Jesus. They tried to disprove the resurrection based upon an argument about marriage laws (v. 27-33). The Sadducees did not believe parts of the Old Testament (see Acts 23:8). Jesus pointed out the flaw in their argument: they did not understand what the resurrection was like. Jesus then proved the resurrection of the soul in v. 37 by quoting Exodus 3:6, a passage well-known to the Sadducees and all Jews.

**Quick Summary of Chapter 20:**

Jesus tells the Parable of the Vineyard Workers

Jesus answers the question of paying taxes to Caesar

Jesus answers the Sadducees concerning the resurrection

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

Accounts of this day of debates are also found in Matthew 21:23-22:46 and Mark 11:27-12:40. Both contain some material that Luke does not.

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

Luke shows that Jesus is the Savior of every man by contrasting His integrity with that of the leaders, seen in the Parable of the Vineyard Keepers (v. 9-16).



## Questions

1. Where was Jesus when His enemies started questioning Him? What was He doing?  
(v.     ) 1
2. Why did the leaders of the Jews not say that John's baptism was from heaven?  
(v.     ) 5
3. Why did the leaders of the Jews not say that John's baptism was from men?  
(v.     ) 6
4. What did the owner of the vineyard do when the workers rejected his slaves?  
(v.     ) 13
5. What would the owner of the vineyard do to the workers upon his return?  
(v.     ) 16
6. To whom did the scribes and chief priests hope to send Jesus after arresting Him?  
(v.     ) 19-20
7. What was on the coin that Jesus used in his reply to the question about taxes?  
(v.     ) 24
8. What did the Sadducees believe about resurrection?  
(v.     ) 27
9. What question did the Sadducees ask to try to prove that there could be no resurrection?  
(v.     ) 33
10. Which Biblical account did Jesus use to show that resurrection would occur?  
(v.     ) 37-38
11. What question did Jesus ask the leaders in v. 41?
12. Jesus implied that He was greater than David in v. 41-44. How was He related to David?  
(v.     ) 41
13. What evil things did Jesus say the scribes were doing despite their righteous appearance?  
(v.     ) 47
14. Which lesson from Luke 20 stands out in your mind? How can you apply this to your daily life?
15. What will you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## The Coming of the Son of Man

**Key Verse:** v. 27 - “And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

After Jesus had observed a widow giving all she had to the temple treasury (v. 1-4), a disciple remarked how beautiful the temple was. Jesus replied that the temple would be destroyed (v. 6). The disciples asked when that would happen, which was answered in v. 32, and what signs would indicate when that would occur. Jesus then started teaching about the coming of the Son of Man. This chapter has a style and language that is unfamiliar to many today, but keeping the following things in mind will aid in understanding it:

**Start with What is Clear.** Christ made it clear that the events in the passage would happen within one generation (v. 32). Many have tried to change “generation” into “race” or something else, and much false teaching has resulted. Taking the word as it was usually used is best. It is necessary to interpret the difficult parts of the passage from the clear statements such as this and not the other way around. Also, that the chapter deals primarily with the destruction of Jerusalem is shown by the question that provoked the conversation in v. 6-7 and the description of the siege in v. 20-24.

**Study the Timeless Themes.** Many of the lessons from the chapter have applications for Christians in any age. Below are a few of the lessons.

- *Persecution* -- Persecution is an opportunity for Christians to show their faith (v. 12-13). Christians must endure to receive their reward (v. 19).
- *Vigilance* -- Christians must not be blinded by the things of this world (v. 34). Christians need to pray for strength (v. 36).
- *Wisdom* -- Christians must not be misled by false teachers (v. 8). Christians must recognize the times in which they live (v. 29-31).

**Know Who Will Win.** Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, promised to show his “power and great glory” in v. 27; He fulfilled that promise in the judgment of Jerusalem. Men would try to punish His servants (v. 12-17), but Jesus fulfilled His promise to make them victorious (v. 18-19). Men had rejected His kingdom, but Jesus showed that it was unstoppable. The Law was shown to be obsolete and Jesus’ kingdom was shown to be the only way to God (v. 31; see Hebrews 8:8-13). Jesus has won and will continue to win. We need to be on His side.

**Quick Summary of Chapter 21:**

Jesus sees a widow's temple contribution

Jesus talks about armies surrounding Jerusalem and a war to come shortly

Jesus talks about His coming with signs

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

The account of the widow’s contribution is recorded in Mark 12:41-44. Jesus’ discussion of His coming is also found in Matthew 24 and Mark 13. The material is also similar to that found in Luke 17:22-37.

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

Luke shows that Jesus is the Savior of every man in Chapter 21 by recording His promises to come with power and establish His kingdom for all men.

## Questions

1. Why did Christ say that the poor widow had given more than anyone else?  
(v.     ) 4
2. What did Jesus say would happen to the temple in v. 6?
3. How were the disciples to react to reports of wars and disturbances?  
(v.     ) 9
4. According to v. 12, what would happen before the great signs from heaven began?
5. How would all men regard the disciples, according to v. 17?
6. Would the disciples be harmed in the turbulent times to come if they were faithful?  
(v.     ) 18-19
7. How would the disciples recognize that the desolation of Jerusalem was near?  
(v.     ) 20
8. How long would Jerusalem be controlled by the Gentiles?  
(v.     ) 24
9. How would the Son of Man come again, according to v. 27?
10. What did Jesus say about when these things would happen?  
(v.     ) 32
11. What were the disciples supposed to do to escape the things that Jesus prophesied?  
(v.     ) 36
12. What was Jesus' main activity during the day while at the feast?  
(v.     ) 37
13. How eager were the people to hear Jesus teach in the temple?  
(v.     ) 38
14. Which lesson from Luke 21 is the most important to you? How can you apply this to your daily life?
15. What will you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## The Last Night Before the Crucifixion

**Key Verse:** v. 42 - "Saying, 'Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Thine be done.'"

Luke 22 covers several hours within the last day before the crucifixion. Around that time (v. 7) the Passover sacrifice was being prepared to commemorate the occasion when the wrath of God passed over the children of Israel in Egypt (Exodus 12). On that night Jesus was preparing Himself to be offered for the world, so that the wrath of God would pass over all those who would turn to Him for forgiveness. Jesus' sacrifice was better than the Passover because it could truly bring forgiveness of sins and because it was done once for all time (Hebrews 10:1-14).

**The Last Supper.** Jesus taught His disciples more about what His sacrifice meant and set up a memorial to be observed from that day to the end of the world. This memorial, known as the Lord's Supper, would be fulfilled in the kingdom (v. 16, 18), specifically the church. The bread represented His body (v. 19) and the cup represented His blood (v. 20). It was to be eaten in remembrance of what Jesus had done (v. 19). Today we remember Jesus by eating the supper and we will do so until He comes for the final time.

**The Failure of the Disciples.** On that night, Jesus needed strength to do what He knew had to be done. The disciples failed Him and made Him face temptation and persecution without the aid of other men. The greatest failure was that of Judas, who betrayed Him (v. 3-6). The other disciples failed by arguing over who was the greatest (v. 24) and deserting Him after His arrest (see Mark 14:50). Some of the disciples slept while He was praying on the Mount of Olives (v. 45-46). Peter failed further by attacking a slave during the arrest (v. 50; see John 18:10) and denying Jesus (v. 54-62). Jesus succeeded alone. Peter became great because after his failures he repented and continued in the faith. We must repent and continue in the faith when we have failed.

**The Betrayal and Arrest -- The Power of Darkness.** When Judas was betraying Jesus and the rulers were arresting Jesus when no one could protest (v. 48, 53), the forces of evil were doing all they could to destroy Christ. When the rulers were rigging His trial and illegitimately convicting Him on His own testimony (v. 66, 70-71), Satan was doing all he could to condemn the world. The utmost evil was not sufficient; Jesus stood firm and saved the world. He has won and will win.

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

The material in Luke 22 can also be found in Matthew 26, Mark 14, and in John 13:21-30 and 18:1-24.

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

Luke shows that Jesus is the Savior of every man in Chapter 22 by showing how He continued with His plan to give Himself as a sacrifice for all even as His

**Quick Summary of Chapter 22:**

Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper during Passover

Jesus predicts Peter's denial

Jesus prays on the Mount of Olives; Judas betrays Him

Jesus is arrested and tried; Peter denies Christ

enemies were completing the plans to kill Him and His friends were misunderstanding and failing Him.

### Questions

1. With whom did Judas speak about betraying Jesus?

(v.     ) 4

2. What sign would tell Peter and John where to prepare the Passover?

(v.     ) 10-12

3. Why did Jesus say that He earnestly desired to eat the Passover with the disciples?

(v.     ) 15-16

4. What did Jesus say the cup represented in v. 20?

5. What kind of attitude was the leader among the disciples supposed to have?

(v.     ) 26

6. For what did Jesus pray regarding Simon Peter?

(v.     ) 31-32

7. What did Jesus say would happen before the cock crowed?

(v.     ) 34

8. What did Jesus say in His prayers to His Father on the Mount of Olives?

(v.     ) 42

9. What did Jesus ask Judas when he approached Him?

(v.     ) 48

10. What circumstances of His arrest did Jesus question in v. 52-53?

11. According to v. 54, where did one of Jesus' trials occur?

12. When did Peter leave the courtyard of the high priest's house?

(v.     ) 61-62

13. Where did Jesus tell the Council that he would be in v. 69?

14. Which lesson from Luke 22 is the most prominent in your mind? How can you apply this to your daily life?

15. What will you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## The Assassination of Christ

**Key Verse:** v. 46 - “And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit.’ And having said this, He breathed His last.”

Immediately after Creation, man had sinned and fallen under the power of Satan. For about four thousand years God had worked to bring man back to Him. All of human history in that time pointed to Jesus Christ. Once Jesus had come, men sinned further by killing Him, their Savior. Jesus defeated death and Satan, giving man an opportunity for eternal life again. All of history since then has looked back to the cross as Satan mounts a vain but bloody battle against good and as those who have known Christ try to tell others the gospel message.

**The Cowardice of Pilate.** Pilate faced a difficult situation when he judged Jesus. Jesus was obviously innocent (v. 4), but the mob would be satisfied by nothing less than His execution. He tried to send the case to Herod, but Herod sent Jesus back (v. 7-11). Pilate’s position was weakened by his past mistakes because the Jews would have reported his poor governance to Caesar if he had not accommodated them (see John 19:12). Not only his position but also his life may have been in danger (see Matthew 27:24). Pilate buckled to the pressure and let the innocent Son of God be killed. The blood he tried to wash off would not leave his hands.

**Changed Lives.** Two men seem to have been changed when they saw the Jesus at His crucifixion. Simon the Cyrenian (v. 26) may have been a pilgrim who traveled from North Africa to attend the Passover feast. He found himself forced to carry the cross of a condemned man. Something about that man apparently touched him deeply. Mark 15:21 probably indicates that he was the father of two prominent Christians. Joseph of Arimathea (v. 50-53) was a member of the Council who believed in Jesus, but had not shown his belief (see John 19:38). After Jesus had died, he boldly asked for Jesus’ body and took care of it -- a move that would have outraged his peers. He found courage through Jesus’ death.

**Who Was Barabbas?** Barabbas (v. 18-19) was a murderer and a rebel. He deserved his sentence and there was nothing he could do to change it.. Jesus died in his place, and Barabbas was set free and given another chance. We do not know today what happened to Barabbas after that day, but this we know for certain: Barabbas stands for each one of us.

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels:

This part of Jesus’ life is also recorded in Matthew 27, Mark 15, and John 18:28-19:42.

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

Luke shows Jesus to be the Savior of every man in Luke 23 by His dying for every man and His forgiving men as they slowly killed Him.

**Quick Summary of Chapter 23:**

Pilate finds Jesus guiltless but sends Him to Herod

Pilate caves in, releases Barabbas, and sentences Jesus

Jesus is crucified and dies

Joseph of Arimathea buries Jesus; the women prepare

## Questions

1. What charges did the rulers bring against Jesus before Pilate?  
(v.     ) 2
2. What charge did the rulers bring against Jesus after Pilate had rejected their first charges?  
(v.     ) 5
3. Why did Herod want to see Jesus?  
(v.     ) 8
4. What did Jesus say to Herod? Why might He have chosen to do this?  
(v.     ) 9
5. What did Pilate propose to do to Jesus in v. 16?
  
6. Why was Barabbas in prison?  
(v.     ) 19
7. What did Pilate say about Jesus at least three times in v. 4, 14-15, and 22?
  
8. Why did Jesus tell the women of Jerusalem to weep?  
(v.     ) 28-29
9. What were the first words of Jesus on the cross that Luke recorded?  
(v.     ) 34
10. What did the penitent criminal next to Jesus ask of Him?  
(v.     ) 42
11. What did Jesus say just before He died?  
(v.     ) 46
12. How did the crowd's attitude change after Jesus had died?  
(v.     ) 48
13. What did the women who saw where Jesus was buried do in v. 56?
  
14. Which lesson from Luke 23 is the most important to you? How can you apply this to your daily life?
  
15. What will you try to teach from this chapter to someone who is not a Christian?

## The Resurrection of Christ

**Key Verse:** v. 46 - “And He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day.””

The previous chapter told of the crucifixion of Christ. Now we see an empty tomb (v. 2-3). The Bible does not speak much about what Jesus did between the crucifixion and the resurrection, but this much is clear: Christ defeated Satan and broke his power by rising from the dead. His victory is our hope.

**The Necessity of the Crucifixion.** The crucifixion was no chance occurrence or tragic accident. It had to happen. The angels at the empty tomb reminded the women that Jesus said He had to die and rise again (v. 6-7). Jesus taught the two men going to Emmaus that the Christ needed to suffer and then enter glory (v. 26). Jesus said that He had to fulfill all of the Old Testament prophecies (v. 44, 46), including His death and resurrection. Even if no one else understood, Jesus knew what would happen to Him and willingly performed His task.

**Opening Eyes and Hearts.** After Jesus had begun to eat with the men going to Emmaus, their eyes were opened and they recognized Him (v. 31). This was after He had opened their minds by explaining the Scriptures to them (v. 27). Jesus also opened the minds of the disciples to understand the Scriptures in v. 45. Any who will diligently seek Christ today will find that He will still open their eyes to understand Him better and open their minds to understand God’s truth.

**What Happened Next?** Jesus ascended into heaven (v. 51), leaving the Holy Spirit to give the disciples power and guidance (v. 49). He also told them what to do: preach the gospel to all nations (v. 47). They joyfully returned to Jerusalem and started by worshipping in the temple (v. 52-53), which was where the book began (1:8-9). Luke continued his work by recording the history of the early church in Acts, and even today the story continues when those who come to know Jesus try to spread His message to others. We must do our part in carrying the gospel of Christ to every man.

Most of the questions at the end of the lesson will be about the importance of the resurrection of Christ.

Parallel Passages in the Other Gospels and Acts:

The resurrection of Christ and the accompanying events are also recorded in Matthew 28, Mark 16, and John 20-21. The first verses of Acts overlap the last verses of Luke.

How This Chapter Accomplishes the Purpose of Luke:

Jesus showed His power over death and sin by rising from the dead, and He commissioned His disciples to preach the message around the world (v. 47). This is the hope of salvation for every man, shown in this chapter and the entire gospel of Luke.

**Quick Summary of Chapter 24:**

Some women do not find Jesus' body Sunday

Jesus teaches two disciples on the road to Emmaus

Jesus ascends; disciples worship in Jerusalem



## Questions

1. Did the apostles initially believe the women who told them about Christ's resurrection?  
(v.     ) 10-11
2. Were the events of Jesus' death well known in Jerusalem?  
(v.     ) 18
3. How did Jesus show His disciples that He was real and not just an apparition?  
(v.     ) 39-40
4. In Matthew 28:18, what did Jesus say He had been given after His resurrection?
5. According to Mark 16:19, where did Jesus go after He had ascended?
6. In Acts 1:8, what did Jesus tell the disciples to do after the Holy Spirit had come upon them?
7. How was Psalm 16:10 fulfilled in the resurrection of Christ?
8. In 1 Corinthians 15:14-15, what did Paul say would be true about Christians if Christ had not risen?
9. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:14, what can we know if we believe that Jesus died and rose again?
10. What does 2 Timothy 1:10 say Christ abolished?
11. According to Hebrews 2:14-15, why did Jesus share in flesh and blood?
12. What did Jesus say He had because of His resurrection in Revelation 1:18?
13. What images did John use to describe Jesus in Revelation 5?
14. Which theme from the Gospel of Luke is the most prominent in your mind?
15. What will you try to teach from this book to someone who is not a Christian?