



Luke 10-24

*Life Group
Study Guide*



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**Easter Week lesson; no Life Groups on Easter Sunday*

How to Use this Study Guide

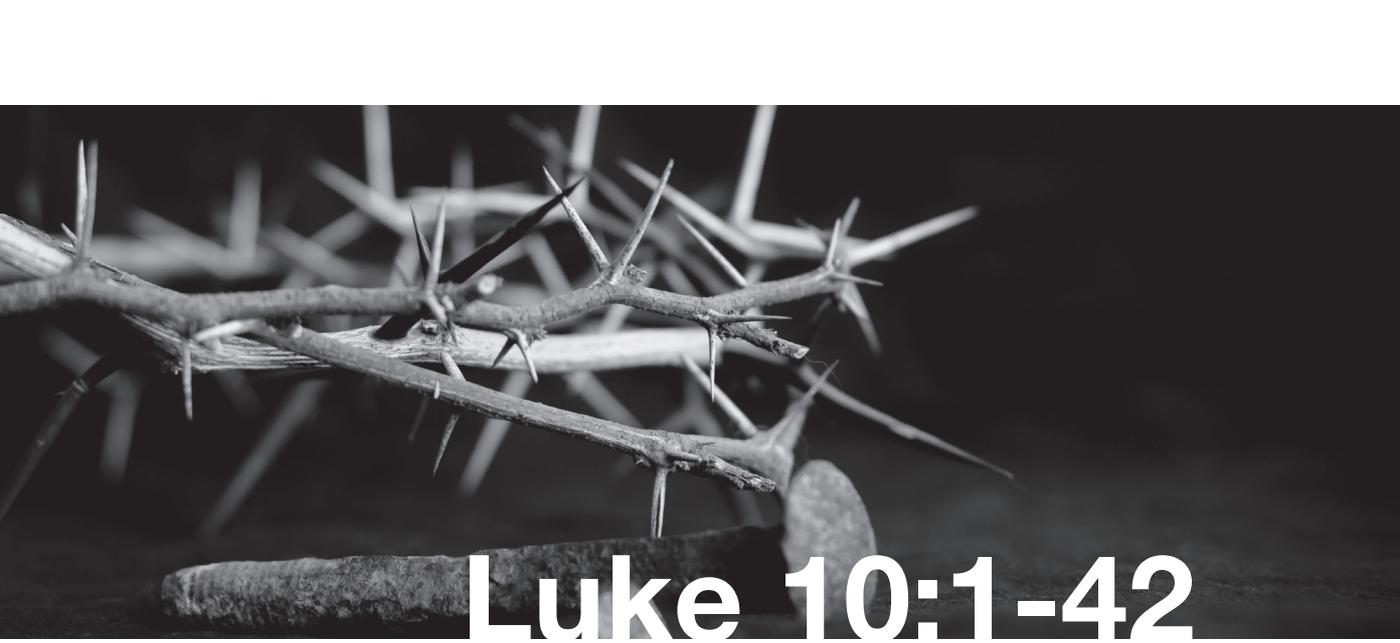
This guide was written as a companion to our Life Group study in Luke 10-24 this spring, beginning in March and continuing through May. We've prepared this guide in hopes that it will encourage you in your daily walk and prepare you to engage well as you study with others in your Life Group.

Each week's lesson contains a brief overview of the week's passage, and then five days worth of study. Each day, you will find a short introduction, three questions to get you thinking about the text, and then challenges to apply the text and pray for God to use it in your life. A careful reading of the day's passage and answering the questions should take most people about 15-20 minutes a day.

Because we included a comprehensive introduction to the whole Gospel of Luke at the beginning of our Winter 2020-21 guide to Luke 1-9, there is no introduction included in this volume. You are encouraged to return to the beginning of the guide for Luke 1-9 to review that introduction as you launch into this quarter's study.

However you use this guide, our prayer is that it would continually drive you to make the study of God's Word a regular habit. May the Lord richly bless and sustain you as you meditate on His Word.

The Study Guide Team



Luke 10:1-42

While Jesus chose twelve disciples, other faithful followers were part of His ministry as well. In this passage, 72 “others” are sent “into every town and place where He Himself was about to go.” Answering a call to follow Jesus faithfully was (and is) not a commitment to a comfortable life, as noted in Luke 9:57-62. Despite the sacrifices that these followers would face, however, they return with joy and wonder at what God accomplished through them. Jesus also rejoiced that God the Father would graciously reveal to these faithful followers the Son’s identity. The final two sections of chapter 10 find Jesus teaching two critical messages to those who follow Him. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the Samaritan, an unlikely model of righteousness, shows the compassion and mercy that should be hallmarks of kingdom living. Finally, at Mary and Martha’s home, Jesus exalts Mary’s actions because she put aside earthly concerns for “one thing is necessary” — time with the Savior. Throughout this chapter, we see the priority of the kingdom of God: Jesus’ followers must proclaim the kingdom message, display the King’s mercy, and prioritize the King’s presence.

Prepared by Stef Dowd

Day 1: Luke 10:1-9

When Jesus sent the 72, He was sending “laborers” into the “harvest” who would be “lambs in the midst of wolves.” They went with no provisions but entered the towns bringing peace. They proclaimed to all the message that God’s kingdom was near through salvation in Jesus.

The message of the kingdom of God was proclaimed not only by the 72. Read Matthew 3:1-2 and Acts 28:23-31. Who carried the message in these passages? Who was their audience? Did the kingdom message change or remain the same?

Specifically, what does Jesus instruct His faithful followers to do before they go on their way? Read verse 2.

To whom does the phrase “a son of peace” refer in this passage? Do you see any benefits for that person?

Apply: According to this passage, there is a full harvest of people ready to accept the Gospel’s truth. As Christians, we are called to be laborers for the Gospel. Have you asked God to send you into the harvest? Are you willing to go? Why or why not?

Pray: Father God, Lord of the harvest, please give me the courage to be a faithful laborer. Open my eyes to the daily harvest of people around me, and please use me to share the good news.

Day 2: Luke 10:10-16

A perfect balance of love and justice is impossible to conceive. What would an ideal balance of God's love and justice look like? Jesus. In these verses, Jesus' perfect justice is entirely in step with His perfect love. It would be unloving to keep the consequences of rejecting Him hidden. Jesus proclaimed the kingdom and pronounced warnings & woes against those who choose to reject Him.

When sent out, the 72 were to be prepared for rejection. When rejection came, what were they to do?

When they were rejected, who was truly the object of rejection? Read verse 16.

Read Joel 3:4-6. Compare Tyre and Sidon's sins with those of Chorazin and Bethsaida (from our passage today, especially verses 12-14).

Apply: Do you struggle to share the Gospel with others for fear of rejection? What have you learned this week that can help encourage you not to fear the response of others?

Pray: Lord Jesus, may I never forget that a just judgment against me is eternal separation from You. I praise You as my loving and just Savior. Let Your perfect balance of love and justice continually convict me to share the Gospel with others.

Day 3: Luke 10:17-24

Joy, blessing, thanksgiving. Every day we long to have these in our lives. What is the source of our joy and thanksgiving? Who is blessed? Jesus answers these questions in His response to the 72 faithful followers who return.

How do you see the Father's will fulfilled in verses 17-24? What is Jesus' response to this?

Why were the 72 instructed to rejoice? Read verse 20.

Jesus and His Father enjoy an intimate relationship, knowing one another wholly and completely. Is anyone else invited into this relationship? Who? Read verse 22 and Matthew 11:27.

Apply: As we are drawn into this relationship of the Father and the Son through faith in Christ, what will be the fruit in our lives? Read John 17:25-26.

Pray: God my Father, Jesus my Savior, and Holy Spirit my Helper, thank You for blessing me with the opportunity to know You through the revealed Word. Holy Spirit, convict and help me to study the Bible daily. Jesus, please bless my study by letting me see You in all of the Bible. Father God, guide me to accept the blessing of Your revealed will with thanksgiving.

Day 4: Luke 10:25-37

This parable is familiar to both Christians and non-Christians. A person known for charitable deeds is often referred to as a “good Samaritan.” However, as always, Jesus pokes holes in our self-righteousness. His parable and answers to the lawyer’s attempt to justify himself point us to the fruit produced by a heart of faith.

Why did the lawyer come to Jesus? What question did the lawyer ask and then answer?

How does Jesus respond to the lawyer’s answer? What is His instruction to the lawyer? Read verse 28.

In response to the lawyer’s question, “Who is my neighbor,” Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan. Does this story answer the lawyer’s question? What point is Jesus making about compassion?

Apply: Who do you see as your neighbor? How can you avoid the lawyer’s mindset and instead follow the example of Jesus in who you show mercy to?

Pray: Oh compassionate Teacher, thank you for laying down Your life for me and all those who would reject You. Grant me the courage to offer the compassion of the Gospel to everyone as You offered it to me.

Day 5: Luke 10:38-42

Mary and Martha were faithful followers and friends of Jesus. They opened their home to and learned from Him on more than one occasion. On this visit, the sisters are reminded of the priority to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.” In choosing to seek out Jesus’ teaching, Mary was choosing to seek the eternal kingdom of God.

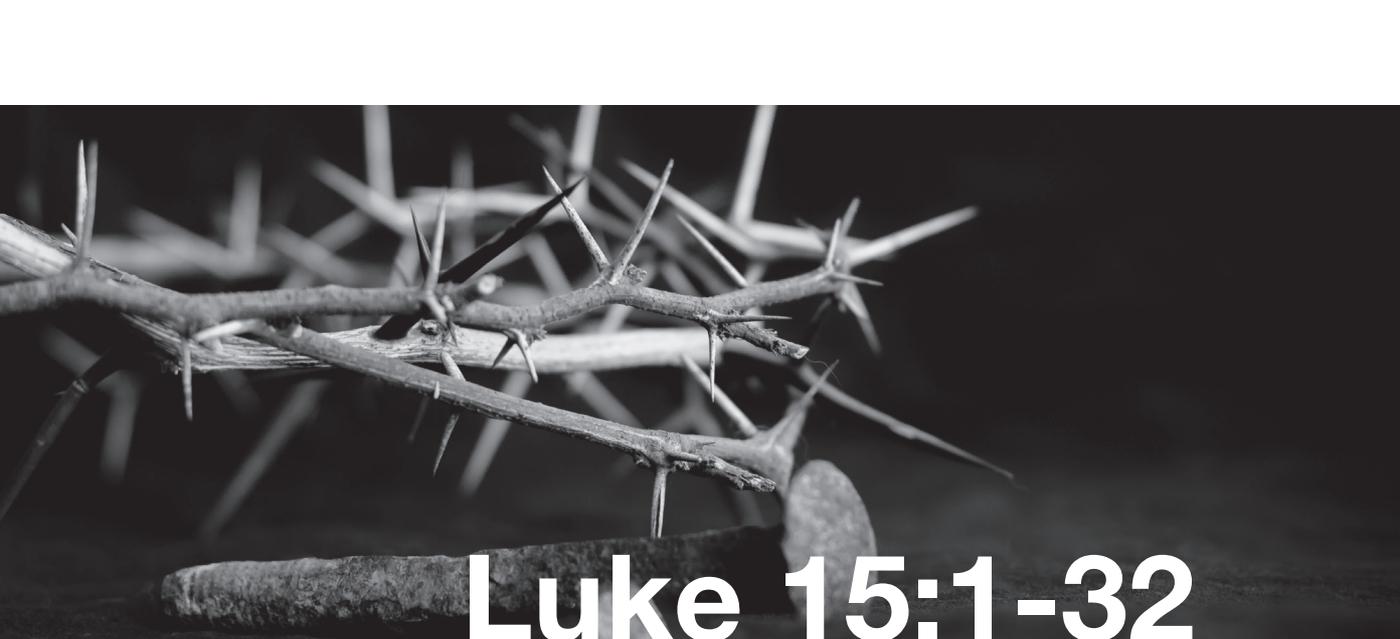
Take a look at John 11:1-40 (especially verse 5). Describe the relationship between Jesus and Mary and Martha.

Based on the context of Luke 10:38-42, what was the “one thing” that was necessary in verse 42? Was this “thing” temporary or eternal?

Verse 42 says that Mary chose the “good portion.” Write out or look up Psalm 73:26. Circle what “portion” refers to in this verse.

Apply: At times, we live as though the present is the eternal and the eternal is not an actuality. Yet, our bodies remind us always that this life is not infinite. How do you live with an eternal kingdom focus? How can you encourage fellow brothers and sisters to do the same?

Pray: Lord, I am busy and troubled with much. I confess my focus frequently falls on the temporal and not the eternal. Please help me to live focused on eternity and encourage others to do the same.



Luke 15:1-32

Luke 14 ends with Jesus saying, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” Luke 15 opens with tax collectors and sinners coming near Him to listen to Him. They had ears to hear what Jesus was teaching, but the Pharisees and scribes were grumbling and accusing Jesus of not only receiving sinners but eating with them. Significantly, Jesus attracted sinners, but the Pharisees repelled them. Jesus loved these sinners, and they knew it. The Pharisees knew the Old Testament Law and desired purity, yet they had no love for lost souls. They did not yet understand that the Son of Man had come “to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). They were blind to the fact that they were among the lost.

Three words summarize this chapter: lost, found, and rejoice. In response to the Pharisees’ accusation, Jesus spoke the parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son. This chapter makes it clear that there is one message of salvation. God welcomes and forgives repentant sinners. As you study this chapter, think about what these parables reveal about the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man (see John 6:37 and 2 Thess. 2:13-14).

Prepared by Jamie O’Brien

Day 1: Luke 15:1-7

Jesus first tells the parable of the lost sheep. Sheep tend to go astray, which is why they need a shepherd. Sheep are not very bright. A lost sheep in the Judean wilderness was doomed because it would not even know it was lost. Like sheep, a sinner may not realize he is lost and headed for destruction, but that is the truth. Even if he becomes aware of his condition, there is nothing he can do about it. The shepherd leaves his 99 other sheep and goes after the lost one, searching until he finds it.

Read Isaiah 53:6 and 1 Peter 2:25. How do these two passages relate to the parable of the lost sheep?

In verse 2, what did the Pharisees and scribes accuse Jesus of doing?

In verse 4, how does the Good Shepherd demonstrate His love for the one lost sheep? How should we show our love for God and lost sinners?

Apply: The image of the shepherd as he lays the lost sheep he had found on his shoulders is a beautiful picture of God's love for us (verse 5). If God so rejoices when one sinner repents, shouldn't we?

Pray: Dear Father, thank You for loving me so much, even while I was lost in my sin, that You would send the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, who laid His life down for me so that I might be saved. Thank you, Lord Jesus.

Day 2: Luke 15:8-10

In today's passage, we read the Parable of the Lost Coin. Essentially, it has the same message as the parable of the lost sheep, but it emphasizes the search's thoroughness. The woman searched carefully until she found it because it was of great value. A silver coin (drachma) was worth about a day's wages. The tax-gatherers and sinners Jesus associated with were extremely valuable to God. This parable teaches that the angels of God rejoice over one sinner who repents (verse 10).

In verse 8, how does Jesus describe the woman's careful search for the lost coin? How long does she keep up her diligent search? What motivated the woman to find the coin?

What does the woman do when she finds the coin? Why does she call others to rejoice with her?

How is this a picture of what God has done in sending His Son (see John 3:16 and Rom. 5:8).

Apply: Few joys match the joy of finding the lost and leading them to Christ and salvation. God has commanded us to do three basic things: love God, love people, and make disciples. How do you demonstrate the love of God for lost sinners?

Pray: Dear Father God, help me, Lord, to love others as you do. Help me, Lord, to value and see others as You do. Help me, Lord, to share the joy of my salvation with someone today.

Day 3: Luke 15:11-20

Today's parable begins: "A certain man had two sons..." The parable's message contrasts these two sons. The word "prodigal" means "wasteful." However, this story could be called "the parable of the loving father," for it is more a picture of the father's grace than it is the son's sinfulness. Unlike the shepherd and the woman in the previous parables, the father did not seek the son. Instead, the son's memory of his father's goodness brought him to repentance and forgiveness.

Today's passage describes the actions of the younger son. In verse 12, what did the younger son demand his father to give him? How might this have made his father feel?

In verse 13, we see that the prodigal son traveled to a distant country and squandered his estate on loose living. Describe the events that take place after he had wasted his inheritance (verses 14-15).

What was it that caused him to come to his senses and essentially repent and return to his father (verses 17-19)? Describe the father's reaction when he saw his young son returning but was still a long way off (verse 20).

Apply: This is one of the most moving pictures of God in all the Bible. "While he was still a long way off, his father saw him" (Luke 15:20). The instant he saw him, he did what no dignified father in that culture would have done. His compassion moved him to run to his son, embrace him, and kiss. This is the love that the Father has for you!

Pray: Dear Father God, thank You for Your great love, compassion, mercy, and grace. I have been that prodigal son because I am prone to leave You. But I know that if I confess my sin, You are faithful and just to forgive me.

Day 4: **Luke 15:20-24**

In this passage, Jesus answered the accusations of the scribes and Pharisees (Luke 15:2). Here the parable describes the father's response to the son's return. The father, full of compassion for his son, ran out to embrace him and kiss him. Before the son finished his confession, the father ordered his servants to "quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet" (verse 22). Then he ordered His servants to prepare a feast celebrating his son's return.

In verses 21-22, how did the father prove his son's acceptance back into the family? Read Isa. 61:10. How does this verse relate to this passage?

What might have happened had the son been treated according to what he deserved? How does this passage illustrate Ps. 103:10-14?

In verse 24, how does the father describe the son's experience? How does this relate to a lost sinner's experience who comes to the Father through faith in Jesus Christ (John 5:24; Eph. 2:1-10)?

Apply: In this passage, the father exemplifies the attitude of our heavenly Father toward sinners who repent: "But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)" (Eph. 2:4-5).

Pray: Dear Father, thank You for loving me even when I am unlovable. Thank You for the cross. When I was dead in my sins, You sought me, saved me, and made me alive in Christ. Help me to serve You all the days of my life.

Day 5: Luke 15:25-32

In the parable's closing section, Jesus introduces us to the older brother, who symbolizes the Pharisees and teachers of the Law. They had the same attitude toward the tax-gatherers and sinners as the older brother had toward his younger brother. When the older brother came home, he heard the celebration for his brother's return and became angry. Similarly, the Pharisees were angry with Jesus's actions and refused to enter the kingdom of heaven.

How did the older brother respond when the father received the younger brother back safe and sound? What reasons did he give for his response (verse 25-30)?

Jesus is holding the older brother up as a mirror to the Pharisees, who prided themselves in their observance of the Law. In what ways was the older son like the Pharisees?

Despite the older brother's attack, how does the father respond to his hardened heart (verses 31-32)? How did he demonstrate his love for his older son in this passage?

Apply: Everybody in this chapter experienced joy except the older brother. The shepherd, the woman, and their friends experienced joy in finding that which was lost. The younger son experienced the joy of returning and being received by his loving father. And the father experienced the joy of receiving his son back safe and sound. But the older brother refused to forgive his younger brother, so he had no joy because of his hardness of heart.

Pray: Dear Father God, You are my strength and shield; my heart trusts in You. Thank you, Lord, for loving me so much that you died for me while I was yet in my sin. Open my eyes to the opportunities to invite others into the salvation and joy found in Christ.



Luke 18:1-43

In Luke 18, we will continue to see the Son of God develop our understanding as to how we live as disciples waiting for the return of Christ. Much of the material in this chapter builds upon the questions presented to Christ in chapter 17. Parables and revelations of who Christ is and who we are in light of a holy God dominate the chapter. Through storytelling and the display of miracles, Jesus addresses prayer, steadfastness, humility, idolatry, and discipleship.

Prepared by Nicole Caldwell

Day 1: Luke 18:1-8

We begin our week in Luke 18 with a closer look at the parable of the persistent widow. It is important here to remember the content of Chapter 17. As we closed out that study last week, Jesus described what the days would be like leading up to the coming of the Son of Man. Then Jesus warns us not to be like Lot's wife (verse 32). That is, in the hour of crisis, don't love the world. Jesus moves from this teaching to the parable we study today.

In verse 1, we are given the response expected from the lesson. What is it that the text says we ought to do?

How are we like the widow? How are we different than the widow, especially in the one to whom we bring petitions?

Read verse 8 and then turn to Matthew 24:11-13. What does the question mean, "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Apply: This parable is intended to encourage us to pray continually until Jesus comes back. The implication from verse 8 is that prayer and faith stand and fall together. Prayer is the fuel of our faith.

Pray: Lord, thank You for the gift and privilege of prayer. Create in me a desire to pray often and alone as Your Son set that example in Your word. Help me remember that we should always pray and not lose heart as we await Your return.

Day 2: Luke 18:9-14

In the text today, we encounter Jesus looking right into religious people's eyes, yet they do not understand who He is and what He has come to do for them. They talk endlessly about God but have no understanding that everything written about God in the Old Testament was pointing to a Savior on whom their sins would be laid and in whom they would become the righteousness of God. They don't see Jesus as the Lord right before them, ready to bestow grace and forgiveness at the cross.

Read verse 14. What does it mean to be justified? Look up the word in a dictionary and choose the best meaning for this context.

What, then, is the opposite of "justified?"

Contrast below how the Pharisee approaches God versus how the tax collector approaches Him.

Apply: God provides righteousness for sinners who are not righteous. "God made him to be sin who knew no sin so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21) By trusting Christ alone and all that He did for us on the cross and all that He is for us, we are united to Him and declared righteous. This is by no merit of our own but by the grace and mercy of God.

Pray: Lord, help me to remember to give full glory to Jesus for my salvation. I praise Him both as the one who is perfect righteousness for me, which I only have by faith alone, and as the one who works out righteousness in me for His glory. Help me always look to Christ alone and trust in Christ alone, not my deeds or works, for my right standing before God and my acceptance with Him.

Day 3: Luke 18:18-30

This mid-week reading brings us to a moment when a man, who may seem to have it all by the world's standards, asks Jesus how to gain eternal life. After prompting by Jesus regarding the commandments, the man affirms that he has kept the commandments since his youth. Jesus could have questioned what it meant for the young man to really keep all the commandments he listed and explain to him that no one has ever kept any of those commandments perfectly. However, Jesus knew where to find this man's heart. It was buried deep in his wallet.

Read verse 19. What prompts Jesus to reply that “no one is good except God alone?”

What was the man's response when Jesus instructed him to sell all that he had? What does this say about his heart?

Read Exod. 20:1-6. What in your life could you not bear for God to ask you to give up (your home, financial security, children, and freedoms)? What are your idols?

Apply: Our sinful nature drives us to worship and adore many things, except the holy God most deserving of it. We secretly cling to things, not trusting Him with our work, comfort, health, marriage, children, or control over our lives. We love Jesus and want to worship Him, but we love something else a little more. And loving anything more than Jesus, even a little more, means we don't love him after all.

Pray: Lord God, thank You for loving me. I am undeserving. Help me to recognize the idols stored up in my heart. Help me realize those things that I treasure more than You. Help me not be like the rich man or those referenced in Jonah 2:8 who turned away from Your love to cling to idols. Grow in me a spirit of contentment and peace in Your love, Your will for my life, and Your perfect provision.

Day 4: Luke 18:31-34 and Psalm 22

As we continue in our reading of Luke today, we encounter Jesus foretelling His death a third time. He explains the suffering on the horizon. Today, after you read the passage from Luke, spend some time reading Psalm 22, a passage referenced by Jesus from the cross.

What does the word “lament” mean, and how does it relate to this psalm?

List below specific prophecies from this psalm regarding the suffering that the Messiah would face.

How does the end of this psalm (verses 22-31) remind you of God’s redemptive work in the world, which Christ fully accomplished on the cross?

Apply: Just like the author of this psalm, the Son of Man was to be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. They were going to scourge Him and kill Him, this perfect and innocent man. Then on the third day, He would rise, defeating death and sin and finalizing His redemptive work to restore all who believe in Him to rightness.

Pray: I praise You, Jesus, for your death and resurrection. I am eternally grateful for my salvation and the payment of my sins by You, a perfect, sinless sacrifice. Your love for me humbles me.

Day 5: Luke 18:35-43

This last encounter to wrap up this chapter of Luke's Gospel reveals the messianic aspect of Jesus' ministry and the faith of a blind beggar. A massive crowd would have followed Jesus as He drew near Jericho. He is three years into His ministry and well-known. The blind man, having been told who was coming near, calls out to the Lord, explicitly identifying Him for who He is. The blind man, who had nothing, received everything by. He was healed both spiritually and physically and, at the end of this chapter, you see this blind man following Jesus and praising God to everybody he talks to.

Three times the blind man states that he knows who Jesus is. What two names does he use to refer to Jesus?

Why is this important?

How does the man then demonstrate true worship and discipleship?

Apply: More than healing takes place here. With a single word, Jesus heals and saves. Then the man follows Jesus in discipleship, glorifying God. His testimony inspired those who saw him to give praise to God in turn. His exuberant praise was instinctive, completely un-compelled, and the natural result of having seen God and experienced His mercy and help. The Lord uses genuine worship and praise of His people to draw others unto Himself.

Pray: Lord, guide me as Your disciple to be a living representation of Your mercy and help to those who need You. Let me worship You and acknowledge You in all that I do so that my life may be a living testimony. Allow the mercy and goodness You have poured out on me to be evident to those around me. Bring me opportunities to share the gospel with those who need You.



Luke 19:1-48

The long travel narrative that began in Luke 9:51 will come to an end in Luke 19. The chapter starts with the story of Zacchaeus—only found in Luke’s Gospel. With Zacchaeus’ repentance, Luke will again illustrate that the Gospel message is for all people including the outcasts and wealthy. We will then look at the parable of the Ten Minas, which will conclude Luke’s account of the journey to Jerusalem. Next is Jesus’ triumphal entry—the promised Son of David (Luke 1:32; 2:4; 3:31) enters Jerusalem not as a conquering king but in humility, anticipating His death on the cross for our sins. The chapter concludes with Jesus weeping over Jerusalem and cleansing the temple.

Prepared by Pastor John Nyota

Day 1: Luke 19:1-10

Today's passage is the story of Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector, and his encounter with Jesus. Again, we see Luke's emphasis on our Lord reaching out to the outcasts and marginalized in that day's culture. Jesus makes it very clear that He came to seek and save the lost.

What do you learn about Zacchaeus from verses 2-4?

According to verses 5-6, how did Zacchaeus respond to Jesus' call? How did the people respond, and why (verse 7)?

From verses 7-8, what is the evidence of true repentance in Zacchaeus' life? According to verse 10, what does Jesus say is His express reason for coming?

Apply: Today's passage is another reminder that salvation is for all people, no matter their background. Jesus spent time with someone who, according to that Jewish culture, was outcast and unclean. This results in Zacchaeus coming to faith. How much time do you spend with the lost in an effort to share the Gospel with them?

Pray: Father, fill our hearts with love for all people, and may we be diligent to share the Gospel with everyone within our circle of influence, no matter their background.

Day 2: Luke 19:11-27

The parable of the Ten Minas concludes the narrative of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem which began in Luke 9:51. The parable seems directed to Jesus' disciples, who expect the kingdom of God to appear soon after Jesus arrives in Jerusalem.

A mina was equivalent to about three months' wages for a laborer. How many minae did each servant get, and how much profit did each make?

How did the nobleman reward each servant? Was it fair?

Read verse 26. What is the result of being faithful and diligent with what the master has entrusted to his servants? What about those who are not faithful?

Apply: The parable's point is stewardship—being faithful with what God has entrusted to us in expanding His kingdom until He returns. This includes spiritual gifts that He has given to all believers. How trustworthy are you in using your spiritual gifts?

Pray: Lord, we pray that we will faithfully use our spiritual gifts to edify and build the church body. May You find us diligently serving to expand Your kingdom by reaching the lost with the Gospel.

Day 3: Luke 19:28-40

The triumphal entry signals the beginning of Jesus' ministry's final days, culminating in His death, burial, and resurrection. While the people expect a powerful political king (riding on a horse), Jesus comes in meekness and humility (riding on a donkey).

How do the people respond to Jesus as He enters Jerusalem (verses 37-38)? What about the Pharisees (verse 39)?

Read Zech. 9:9. What does it tell us about our current narrative? Was it random or according to God's sovereign plan?

How does Jesus respond to the Pharisees when they tell Him to rebuke the crowd (verse 39)?
Read Psalm 19:1-6. What do these verses tell us about creation? How does creation challenge us about worship?

Apply: The crowd of disciples welcomed the Messiah with praise and worship. Do you have a regular habit of worship, both in private and in corporate gatherings?

Pray: Oh God, we pray that we will be faithful in worshipping You not only in private personal time with You but also publicly and corporately with our fellow Christians. May the lost be attracted to You because of our genuine worship.

Day 4: **Luke 19:41-44**

The long narrative to Jerusalem has come to an end. Jesus is about to enter Jerusalem, and He gets emotional and weeps over the city. Rather than being concerned about His suffering and imminent death, Jesus is moved by the Jews' rejection of the Messiah.

Luke 19:41 and John 11:35 are the only records of Jesus weeping in the Gospels. Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem?

Read verse 42 and John 12:37-40. Why is the message of salvation hidden from the people?

What will be the result of the people's rejection of the Messiah (verses 43-44)?

Apply: The people's lostness and rejection of the Gospel move Jesus to weep. What is your response to people who are lost and keep rejecting the Gospel? Do you still care enough to continue praying and seeking opportunities to love on them and share the Gospel?

Pray: Father God, we pray that You will fill our hearts with the same compassion You have for lost people, that we will see them the same way you do and be moved to love them and do all we can to share the Gospel with them.

Day 5: Luke 19:45-48

Luke concludes the chapter with a short account of Jesus cleansing the temple and a summary of Him teaching in the temple. Meanwhile, the religious leaders are plotting to get Him killed.

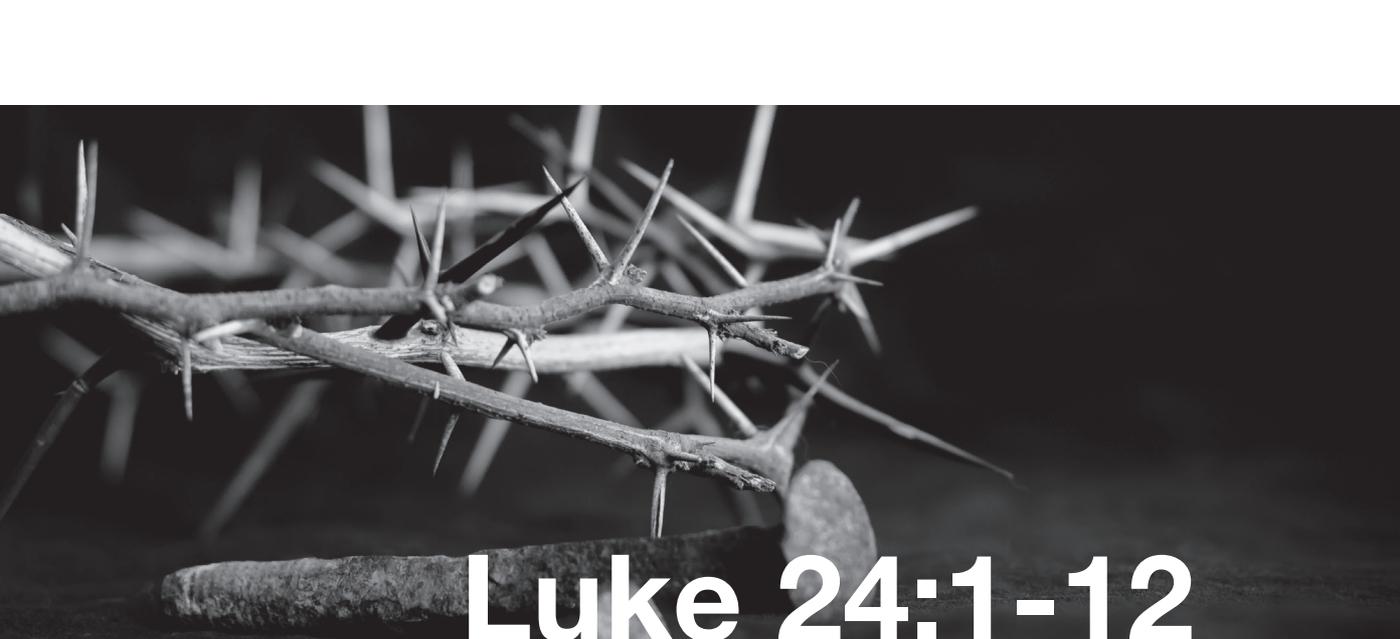
Read verses 45-46, Matt. 21:12-16, and Mark 11:15-18. Why did Jesus drive out the traders from the temple?

Jesus quotes Isa. 56:7 and Jer. 7:11. What does Isaiah say about the temple? What does this tell us about the Jews welcoming the Gentiles (other nations)? Read Isa. 56:6-7.

Jesus knows the Jews are plotting to kill Him, but what is He doing (verse 47)?

Apply: Jesus is not distracted by His enemies who are plotting and looking for an opportunity to get Him killed. Instead, He stays focused on his ministry—He is teaching the people. Do you get easily distracted and discouraged by criticism and those opposed to the Gospel? Let us stay focused by being in the Word and prayer. Also, may we always remember that the people are not our enemy—they have been deceived by the enemy (2 Cor. 4:4).

Pray: Lord, we pray that we will stay focused on glorifying You by loving You and loving others. May we always remember that You love all the lost people and desire they come to salvation. May this motivate us to love all people and share the Gospel with them.



Luke 24:1-12

We're actually jumping ahead in our study a few chapters to focus on the resurrection of our Lord during Easter week. We'll go back and resume our walk through Luke's Gospel next week, but for now, we'll reflect on Luke's account of the most momentous day in history.

It's hard to imagine the despair that must have accompanied the death of Jesus. His life and ministry brought encouragement, joy, and hope to so many in Israel, and now that hope was gone – or so it seemed. Had the combined power of the Jewish religious aristocracy and the Roman political machine really been enough to snuff out the light of God's everlasting promise? What was the point of having faith when it could be crushed by human ambition and authority?

Many of Jesus' closest disciples had abandoned Him the night of His death, at the threat of being accused with Him. So it is that the third day after the crucifixion dawns with a surprising group of ordinary folks approaching the tomb, not at all expecting what they will find there.

Prepared by Pastor Jason Hall

Day 1: Luke 24:1-12

Each day this week, we're going to read the entire account and then focus on a particular piece of the story. Today, let's pay attention to the followers of Jesus who first discovered the empty tomb.

Look back at Luke 23:55-56, then read verses 1-2 again. Jot down some necessary details below: Who came to the tomb? When? Why? And based on what they brought with them, what do you think they expected to find?

Do your observations about these followers of Jesus tell you anything about their motivation and dedication to the Lord?

Based on your reading of verses 2-3, what did Jesus' followers find at the tomb? More importantly, what did they not see?

Apply: These women were genuinely dedicated to Jesus and His mission, so much so that they followed Him from Galilee and got up before dawn to anoint His dead body. Are we so dedicated? If Jesus is Lord of anything, He must be Lord of everything in our lives.

Pray: Lord, I pray that my whole heart and life would be dedicated to Your glory. Please reveal to me any areas of my life I have not surrendered to You, and bring me to repentance and faith in Your ability to save me.

Day 2: Luke 24:1-12

Today we're going to look at the message of the angels to the women at the tomb. We'll notice that the angels' message was not novel, but was something that the women (and Jesus' other followers as well) should have already known.

According to verse 4, what was the women's reaction to not finding Jesus' body? And how does angel address this with His first question to them?

Look up and read Luke 9:22, Matt. 17:22-23, and Mark 9:30-31. How do Jesus' words recorded in those places compare to what the angels say in verse 7?

According to verses 8-9, what did the women think and do after hearing the angels?

Apply: We are not missing any information we need when it comes to trusting Jesus. His Word is sufficient (2 Tim. 3:16-17), and we have everything we need (2 Pet. 1:3). What are you waiting for to fully commit your heart to be His disciple?

Pray: Lord, I know that You have given me everything I need, according to Your Holy Spirit. Empower me, according to Your promise, to trust and obey You in all things.

Day 3: Luke 24:1-12

The fantastic news of Jesus' resurrection has shocked the women, and they have shared their incredible story with His other disciples. But those other disciples' reactions will betray their hearts and lack of faith.

According to verse 11, how did the rest of the disciples react to the women's account of what happened to them at Jesus' tomb?

Did these disciples presumably also have access to Jesus' own predictions about his death, burial, and resurrection (see yesterday's references to Luke 9:22, Matt. 17:22-23, and Mark 9:30-31)? What, then, would you conclude about their faith in Jesus' ability to keep His promises?

In what ways is Peter's reaction different than that of the other disciples?

Apply: Just because we hear something doesn't mean we understand and obey. Jesus' other disciples had heard Jesus' words but chose not to believe either these women or Jesus himself. Examine your heart to see if there are scriptural truths or commands you have heard but have refused to believe and obey.

Pray: Father, help me to see my own "blind spots" of faith, places in my life in which I have not fully surrendered to You. As I see these things, give me the strength to believe and obey Your Word.

Day 4: **John 20:11-18**

John gives us even more detail about Mary Magdalene, one of the women who went to the tomb that morning seeking Jesus. Mary was a redeemed sinner, like all of us, whose dedication to the Lord began when He cast out seven demons from her. Read John's account of her encounter with the Risen Lord and answer the following questions.

What is Mary's emotional reaction to not finding Jesus' body in the tomb?

What does Mary's pleading, with both the angels and Jesus (before she recognizes Him), tell you about her depth of love for Him?

When Jesus says Mary's name, she recognizes Him. We don't know exactly why she didn't recognize Him at first, but once Jesus reveals Himself to her, what is her reaction? (Here's a hint: The answer is implied in verse 17)

Apply: Mary loved Jesus with her whole heart. She was heartbroken when she was afraid she couldn't anoint His body, was desperate to find Him and thrilled when she recognized Him. Are you so desperate to see and know the Lord? Can others tell?

Pray: Lord, give me a heart and passion for knowing You more and more every day, and let it show on my face, in my actions, and with the joy of my words.

Day 5: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

We're going to finish our study this week, and ready our hearts for Easter Sunday, by meditating on Paul's theology of the resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, those who are His by faith will also rise. The future resurrection of all believers should affect how we live our lives in the here and now!

What is the fundamental contrast Paul keeps referencing in these verses? Which word refers to the world, and which refers to the kingdom of God?

We are still waiting for the final victory over sin and death. According to verse 52, when will this happen, and how long will it take?

Read verse 58 carefully. How does Paul want the future grace of the resurrection promise to impact our faith today?

Apply: The Word of God is clear: We WILL be changed, we WILL see the Lord, we WILL live with Him forever. Rejoice and be glad! Nothing can separate us from God's love and the future resurrection that will be ours at His return.

Pray: Lord, thank You for Your resurrection and for promising me that I will be raised with You! Let me rejoice and celebrate this Easter Sunday in the firm hope of a future resurrection.



Luke 20:1-21:4

This week's passage sees Jesus interacting with some of the religious leaders at the temple in Jerusalem, coming on the heels of Jesus' temple cleansing in Luke 19 and driving toward His crucifixion and resurrection. The Pharisees and Sadducees, normally at odds with one another, are united in their attempts to undermine Jesus' authority and discredit Him and His teachings. In His methodical and gracious way, often through questions and parables, the Lord addresses these leaders' idolatry of religion and the Law as well as the sickness of sin in their lives that led them to twist Scripture for their own purposes and posturing. Wouldn't it be nice if these actions hadn't carried over into our modern times? Even amongst believers, it is often a struggle to release authority over all the pockets of our lives to our righteous and holy God. As you study this week, allow Jesus' teaching to properly convict you and show the strongholds you've built against him.

Prepared by Christy Crowder

Day 1: Luke 20:1-8

The beginning of Chapter 20 finds Jesus just a few days before His death. Rather than fretting over His coming fate, He is busy about the Father's business, preaching the Gospel. The religious leaders of the day, who claim to know and believe Scripture, come upon Jesus at the temple and challenge His authority to teach and preach in the temple. Jesus' answers reveal their lack of spiritual understanding.

What were the religious leaders afraid of when answering Jesus' question?

How do John the Baptist's teachings contradict these leaders' beliefs (see, for example, John 1:26-34)?

Who does have the right to question Jesus' authority?

Apply: John the Baptist's message of repentance and readiness for the Messiah is still relevant today. What is keeping us from allowing Jesus to indeed be Lord in our lives? Can you imagine the freedom the religious leaders would have experienced in admitting they were wrong and submitting to the authority of Jesus? Have you experienced this freedom? What's standing in your way?

Pray: Heavenly Father, forgive me for the times I have held on tight to parts of my life I don't want to surrender to You. Help me realize Your ways are the best ways, and obedience to You brings both peace and power to do Your will.

Day 2: Luke 20:9-18

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants uses a situation that would have been familiar to Jesus' listeners (an absent landlord, his representatives, and tenants) as a way to explain Israelite leaders' treatment of the Messiah and God's response. While Jesus is speaking to the crowd of listeners at the temple, He directs the parable and its message to the religious leaders who just questioned His authority. However, Luke 8:10 reminds us that the nuance of the parable will be lost on the lost.

The tenants are not submitting to the owner's authority. What authority is driving their actions?

How do the people react to the parable? Why?

Jesus quotes Ps. 118:22 in this parable. Read Isa. 28:16-18 and Ps. 118:19-24. List any similarities you see.

Apply: Building without a true cornerstone is asking for a structure to be without structural integrity. Similarly, building a life without Jesus as the cornerstone of the foundation (Acts 4:11) is to live without spiritual integrity. Rejecting Jesus' Gospel will break us, and his condemnation will crush us when it inevitably comes upon those who don't believe.

Pray: Dear Lord, forgive me for attempting to build my life over and over again without you as the cornerstone and then blaming You when I feel lost, and You feel far away. Help me always to let You and Your Word be the foundation of my life and my decisions.

Day 3: Luke 20:19-26

Angered by Jesus' pointed parable, the religious leaders send in spies to undermine the Lord's work. Since Jesus' spiritual authority has proven unshakable, the spies seek to implicate Him in civil disobedience. Instead of falling for their politically-charged plan, Jesus stumps His adversaries and takes this opportunity to teach about the tension of living as citizens of both earthly and heavenly kingdoms.

What does Luke 20:19 tell us about the motivations of the religious leaders?

Read Matt. 22:16 for a broader example of the insincere compliments the spies use in their questioning of Jesus. Why did they think this would be effective?

Read Romans 13:1-7. What does this passage tell us about the structure of society as it relates to God and His authority?

Apply: Do you feel the tension in our present world between God's authority and man's? Does it drive you to frustration or to worship? This feeling of tension is good! It is your soul recognizing that this world is not where you ultimately belong. Rather than grumble at the difficulty of following rules and leaders we may not care for, praise the Lord for giving us a plan to live godly lives where He has us today, and for the hope we have in the promise of an eternity with Him.

Pray: Heavenly Father, thank You for being a God of order and excellence. I praise You for caring about every facet of our lives and giving us guidelines for serving You well and shining Your light in this dark world. Until you call me home to be with You, help me use Your Word and intentional time with You to guide my steps for Your glory.

Day 4: Luke 20:27-44

The Pharisees have failed in their attempts to undermine Jesus' authority, so we now encounter another group – the Sadducees. In their attempt to discredit Jesus, the Sadducees twist Scripture to serve their own ends. They put forth a scenario to test Jesus based on the concept of “levirate marriage” found in Deut. 25:5-10. The Sadducees, who don't believe in resurrection, are silenced by Jesus' answer. However, Jesus continues the conversation with his opponents by asking a question of His own.

If the Sadducees didn't believe in the resurrection, why would they put this case before Jesus?

In verse 37, Jesus references “the passage about the bush.” Read Exod. 3:1-6. According to Jesus, how does this passage prove that the Old Testament points to the resurrection?

Jesus quotes from Psalm 110 in today's passage. Read Ps. 110:1-4. How does this help us understand Christ as both David's son and his Lord?

Apply: Scripture will never contradict itself and is always true (2 Tim. 3:15). How are you honing your Bible study skills? How do you ensure you are “rightly handling the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15)? This is where Life Groups and discipleship opportunities are invaluable. Are you plugged in to these? If not, check out richlandcreek.com/lifegroups or richlandcreek.com/discipleship today.

Pray: Dear Lord, I praise You and thank You for Your Word. I ask You to help me glean from it what You mean, not merely what I want it to say. Place people in my life who will encourage me in my study of Your Word, and please help me be faithful in my encouragement of others.

Day 5: Luke 20:45-21:4

Following His confrontations with the religious leaders, Jesus warns the people of the danger of empty “religious” acts. The Lord sees past the posturing by the religious elite to the wicked, selfish motivations truly driving their actions. He promises God will judge such hypocrisy. In contrast, Jesus then points out a widow who demonstrates faith in God by giving all she had.

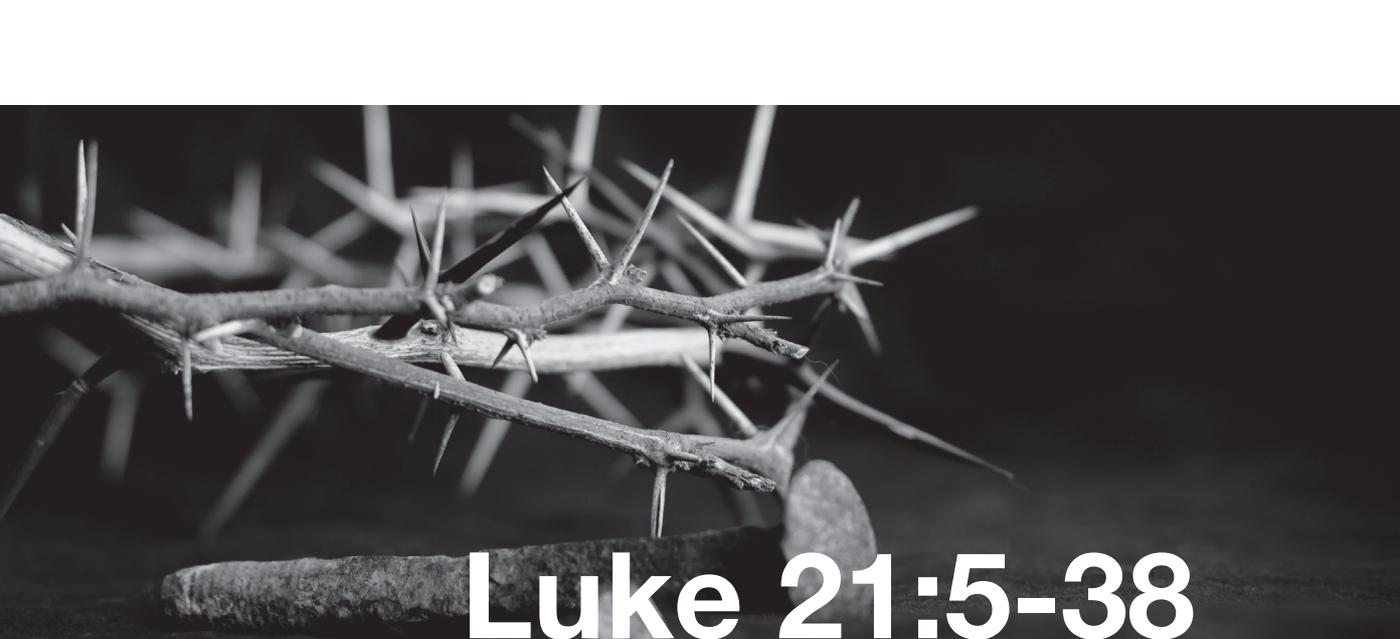
What examples does Luke give in today’s passage of showy “religious” acts?

Read Matt. 23:13-36. What does this passage tell you about the standard God has set for spiritual leaders?

Luke, more than any other gospel writer, uses stories of women to illustrate faithfulness. Compare the widow from today’s passage with Anna (Luke 2:36-38) and the Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1-8). What do these stories tell you about how God sees and uses marginalized women in His Kingdom?

Apply: We are often more concerned with outward obedience for the sake of human approval than in having our hearts aligned with God’s will. Spend some time in prayer, asking God to forgive you for seeking man’s approval over His.

Pray: Gracious and Heavenly Father, thank You for receiving my worship. Please help me see anything in my life hindering me from properly glorifying You. Give me a pure and generous heart.



Luke 21:5-38

The passage we will delve into this week is a part of what is traditionally known as the “Olivet Discourse.” Jesus has just completed his time of teaching at the temple in Jerusalem: “Every day he was teaching at the temple” (Luke 19:45) and “each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives” (Luke 21:37). He is about to share his final Passover meal with His disciples before being betrayed, suffering, and dying. Jesus begins by responding to His disciple’s questions about the temple, taking the opportunity to speak with them about events that are soon to come (the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in A.D. 70) and events that are further out (the coming of the Son of Man and the end of the age). Jesus has spoken about these types of things before but now gives more detail about near future and distant future events.

In one of his last sermons to His disciples, Jesus prepares them for His death by turning their eyes to the future with a message of both warning and encouragement. What a fitting message for us today – be watchful (verse 8) and be careful (verse 34), but do not be afraid (verse 9) or worry (verse 14). Instead, “stand up and lift up your heads, because the day of redemption is drawing near” (verse 28)!

Prepared by Faith Cross

Day 1: Luke 21:5-38

Let's do a little background work on our passage today. We will spend some time reading this passage not just in Luke, but the parallel accounts in Matthew and Mark as well. Reading it in this way will give us a full picture of the message, its importance, and what each writer chose to include. If possible, have two Bibles side by side.

Read Luke 21:5-38 and compare it to Matthew 24. Which is longer? Are there any notable differences or similarities? Record your observations below.

Now turn to Mark 13 and read it. Which is longer? Are there any notable differences or similarities? Record your observations below.

Finally, let's compare closely the questions the disciples asked Jesus before he began his discourse. Read Luke 21:7, Matt. 24:3, and Mark 13:4. What are the similarities and differences?

Apply: There is a comforting unity found in the words of Scripture, though these three accounts are all slightly different. Knowing our varied human minds, God is gracious to give us his Word in ways that make sense and minister to each of us individually. But we can't be comforted and gain a deeper understanding of Him without the hard work of studying. Let's be people who often study, and study well!

Pray: Lord, this week, help me to dig deep into Your Word. Let me remember You are a God who can be known and wants to be in a relationship with us. I praise you for Your presence and guidance: "I gain understanding from your precepts... your word is a lamp to my feet and light to my path" (Ps. 119:104-105).

Day 2: Luke 21:5-9

We have gained an understanding of this passage by looking at it in the other gospels. The disciples' questions have precipitated this sermon by Jesus. Looking at their questions, it seems they believed the destruction of Jerusalem, the temple, the end of the age, and the Son of Man's coming would all happen simultaneously. Let's look a little closer and see how Jesus has separated these events in His answers.

Read verses 5-6, Matt. 24:1-2, and Mark 13:1-2. What did the disciples believe about the temple? How did Jesus respond to their comments?

Read verses 7-9, Matt. 24:3-6, and Mark 13:3-7. What is Jesus' answer to their question about the timing of the destruction of the temple? Look carefully at the words He uses. What warnings does he give? What commands does he offer?

How do verse 7, Matt. 24:6, and Mark 13:7b describe this time? Is it the end of the age? Has Jesus made a distinction between near and future events?

Apply: God's timing of events in our lives does not always coincide with the timing we have in our minds. We must be careful not to make assumptions about the way we see events unfolding. We must approach God with an open mind, present our questions, be willing to hear from Him, and trust His holy plan.

Pray: Lord, You tell me "my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than yours ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:8-9). When I feel confused or disheartened by the circumstances I see around me, let me turn to You in prayer, remember what You've said and take comfort in Your perfect ways and plan.

Day 3: Luke 21:10-24

In Jesus' initial response to the disciples, we understand He is separating near future from distant future events. The distressing near future events must happen, but their occurrence does not mean the end is right away; instead, these events are part of God's unfolding plan for distant future events. In the verses today, we will get a more complete description of these near-future events and how we should respond.

Look closely at verses 10-11. Are the events Jesus describes local or worldwide? What types of events does he describe: political events, natural events, etc.?

Now read verses 12-19. Is this section focused on worldwide events or personal events? What "opportunity" (ESV) does Jesus point out to the disciples in verse 13? What does he promise them in verses 15 and 18?

Read verses 20-24. What near-future event is described? How is this event explained in verse 22?

Finally, read Matt. 24:8, Mark 13:8b, and Romans 8:22. What are all these catastrophic events and persecutions described as? Why do you think Jesus uses this metaphor?

Apply: Amid perilous events, both global and personal, Jesus calls his disciples to stand firm. He is the giver of wisdom in times of trial. We have a job to do, and we have been equipped: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Pray: Lord, let me stand firm in Your promises and power. Often, I too quickly turn my mind to personal understanding and personal strength. Let me remember Your words of comfort during trial: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Day 4: Luke 21:25-32

Jesus has described the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. Now he will answer their questions about the second coming of the Son of Man. He uses another metaphor to help them to understand the timing of all these disturbing events.

Read verses 25-27, Matt. 24:29-31, and Mark 13:24-27. What signs will be visible to the whole world at the coming of the Son of Man? How will the Son of Man arrive? See also Matt. 24:36 and 2 Pet. 3:10. How does this help your understanding of Jesus' return?

Read verse 28. How should a disciple respond to these events? Is this a posture of defeat or confidence?

Read verses 29-33. What metaphor does Jesus use to help the disciples understand all these distressing events? In verse 33, what will remain stable in all the predicted tumult?

Apply: Jesus compares his second coming to a natural (not supernatural) event: the changing of the seasons seen in the blooming of a fig tree. Much as we watch for and anticipate the change of the seasons, we can confidently expect his return. But we don't need to stand around staring into the sky (Acts 1:10-11). We have work to do here before that momentous day.

Pray: Lord, You are not slow to fulfill Your promise, as some count slowness, but You are patient, not wanting any to perish, but all to repent (2 Peter 3:9). The timing of Your return is based on Your mercy and love. Let me do what You have set before me to do – share the gospel – as I wait in confident anticipation of that glorious day.

Day 5: Luke 21:34-38

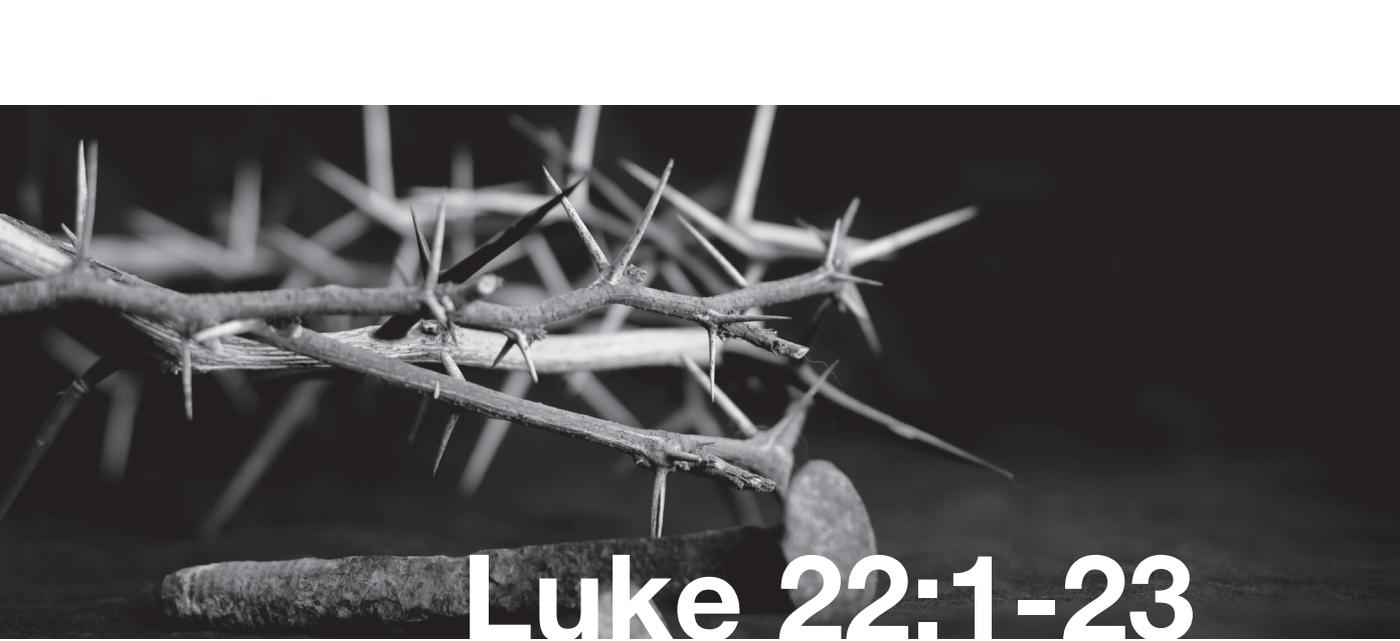
Read verses 34 and 38. What two warnings does Jesus give his disciples in these verses? What type of “awakeness” is He talking about, physical or spiritual?

Read Luke 12:35-40. How does this parable deepen our understanding of watching and staying awake?

Read Colossians 4:2. As followers of Christ, what should we do in conjunction with being watchful?

Apply: We have been warned as disciples to watch carefully for the coming of the Son of Man. “Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...” (Rom. 12:2). To “see” the world with spiritual eyes, we must be people who commit to regular Bible study and prayer.

Pray: Lord, because I have placed my faith in Your Son Jesus, I am Your child, a child of light, not darkness. “For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not children of night or of the darkness. So then, let us not sleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober” (1 Thess. 5:5-6). Help me remain consistent in Bible study and prayer, as I vigilantly wait for your return, remembering to “not neglect to meet together... but encouraging one another, and all the more, as you see the Day drawing near” (Heb.10:25).



Luke 22:1-23

God has a plan - a plan to deliver us from sin. He will faithfully carry out this plan just as He did when He delivered His people, Israel, from slavery in Egypt. Luke's Gospel has shown us Jesus established as the one who came "to preach the gospel to the poor; to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:18-19).

In our study this week, Luke transitions from Jesus' earthly ministry to the events that set the stage for the Passion of Christ. The grand finale of God's plan of salvation is about to take place, as Jesus becomes the sacrificial Lamb who will once and for all take away the sins of all who will trust in Him. Jesus will spend a few more hours with His disciples observing the Passover. Later, they will reflect on how He is the One who takes away their sin.

As we study this week, we will especially notice some parallels between God's plan to deliver Israel from Egyptian bondage (Exodus 12) and His plan to deliver humanity from the bondage of sin through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Prepared by Chuck Bounds

Day 1: Luke 22:1

In today's study, we will refer back to the Old Testament observance of Passover. The Feast of Unleavened Bread was a week-long worship celebration that began immediately following Passover's observance. We must study Passover's background to gain a deeper understanding of the significance of Jesus' observance of the Passover meal with His disciples in which He instituted the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.

Read Exod. 12:1-13. The annual Passover observance served as a reminder to the children of Israel of what event in their history?

Read Deut. 16:3. What was the significance of the unleavened bread in the Passover observance?

Luke pointed out that the Passover “was approaching,” indicating that it was an anticipated event. What New Testament ordinance looks back to the sacrifice of Christ? Do you look forward to this ordinance with anticipation?

Apply: God's plan of salvation is amazing. We see it unfolding throughout the Old Testament. The New Testament brings us the Gospel, the good news that Jesus provided salvation for us. The Bible is full of reminders of God's love and power in saving us to be His children who will live with Him forever. Do you think it is vital for us to celebrate the reminders of God's mighty works? Is He worthy of our worship?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You are worthy of our love and devotion, and You are deserving of our worship. Your shed blood delivers men from the bondage of sin. Help us daily remember that Your gift of salvation is the most precious gift.

Day 2: Luke 22:2-6

In our study today, Luke brings to light the tragic irony of the sins of jealousy and hatred. The Jewish leadership was determined to kill Jesus; they didn't understand that He fulfilled all that Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage represented. But the leaders had a problem in that Jesus had quite a large following. Satan had a solution to their dilemma. We will see that the conflict over Jesus was more than just a flesh and blood rivalry; it was demonic.

Read Ephesians 6:12. How does this verse shed light on what we see in today's passage?

Who, according to the Scripture, was allowed to have some measure of influence on Judas?

What motivated Judas to betray Jesus? Do you think this motivating factor blinded Judas from considering the consequences of his actions?

Apply: Sin has a way of distorting one's perspective of what is true. When a person rejects Jesus Christ, he or she allows Satan to have his way with their heart and mind. God has a solution in His Son Jesus, who overcame the destructive power of sin.

“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” 1 John 3:8 NKJV

Prayer: “Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever, for great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths, from the realm of the dead.” Psalm 86:11-13 (NIV)

Day 3: Luke 22:7-13

In today's passage, we read about the preparation of the Passover meal. In the Old Testament passages we referred to earlier, God gave the Jews precise instructions on how the Passover was to be observed. Jesus was faithful in keeping the ordinances as God had instructed His people. This Passover observance by Jesus and His disciples had a special significance, and proper preparation was necessary.

Which two of Jesus' disciples did He send to prepare the Passover? Read 1 Pet. 1:19 and Rev. 5:6 - How did these two men later refer to Jesus?

How did the two disciples locate the place where they were to prepare the Passover meal?

Read Luke 19:28-32. What similarities do you see between this passage and today's verses?

Apply: Jesus' disciples did not question what He told them to do. They followed His instructions. They were obedient, and things turned out just as He had said. Even though we can't always see what is ahead, we can trust that God's plan will turn out just as He said in His Word.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for giving us your faithful Word. Your Word has never failed. Help me today to follow Your instructions so that I may know the joy and peace of Your promises fulfilled.

Day 4: Luke 22:14-20

As a New Testament church, we observe the ordinance of Communion, or as some refer to it, the Lord's Supper. In today's study, Luke gives us his account of the institution of the ordinance of Communion. One last time Jesus will eat the Passover meal with His disciples, whom Luke refers to as "the twelve apostles." While observing the Passover, the celebration of Israel's deliverance from Egypt, Jesus told His apostles about His plan to deliver them from sin.

Read verses 15-16. When is the next time Jesus says he will share a meal with His followers?

Jesus told His disciples to divide the cup (of wine) among themselves. He also broke apart a loaf of bread and gave it to His disciples. What did the wine and bread represent?

God's old covenant with Israel was based upon a system of blood sacrifices made for sins regularly. How is Jesus' "new covenant in His blood" different (See Matt. 26:27-28 and John 1:29)?

Apply: The Lord's Supper observance is a special time when followers of Jesus Christ, as a church, remember and reflect on the grace of God in giving His only Son to be sacrificed for our sins. Do you take it seriously? During this observance, do you focus all of your attention on loving the Savior who paid for your eternal life?

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, I love You. Thank You for paying my sin debt when I was lost and had no hope. Thank You, Lord, for enduring the cross on my behalf. Guide me and help me to be faithful to Your word.

Day 5: Luke 22:21-23

In our study today, Luke picks up where he left off in verse 6. Jesus revealed that one among the twelve disciples would betray Him. He gave a brief warning of the destruction of the one who would do such an evil deed.

Look back at Luke 6:12-16. How long had Judas been following Jesus?

Judas was involved in the plot to kill Jesus and would be held responsible. But whose plan is at work behind all of these events? Read Acts 2:23 as you respond.

How do Jesus' statements affect the other disciples?

Apply: The disciples questioned among themselves who might be the traitor. Eleven of them did not know who would do such a thing. But Jesus knew! He knows all hearts. Is your heart true to Jesus? Can you indeed call Him Lord?

Prayer: Dear Lord, search my heart and reveal my sins that I may ask Your forgiveness, that I may stay loyal and faithful. Keep me, Lord, from temptation and guide me by Your Holy Spirit. I love You, Lord. Thank you for loving me!



Luke 22:24-46

Jesus knew that He had reached His last moments of freedom. His betrayer was at hand. The arrest, trial, and His death were only hours away. What did He do in His last few minutes with His disciples? What would you do? Jesus prepared His disciples, and He prepared Himself for what was to come. First, in our passage, Jesus teaches and models true greatness through humble servanthood. Then He warns and equips His disciples for the imminent trials while at the same time reminding them of His prayers for their faithfulness. Finally, Jesus prays for Himself. Earnestly, agonizingly, and honestly. His prayer that appears to end in defeat — a surrender of will, a request denied — will produce perfect obedience that results in ultimate victory, glory, and joy (Hebrews 12:2)..

Prepared by Robin Hall

Day 1: Luke 22:24-27

As Jesus continues to keep His eyes on His mission and the road to the cross, we find the disciples pursuing “greatness” of a different kind. Jesus takes this opportunity to redefine greatness in the kingdom of God.

What were the disciples arguing about in these verses? Is this the first time they have had this argument (see Luke 9:46-48)?

What two examples (one negative and one positive) does Jesus give as He teaches about true greatness? What truth is He teaching them with these examples?

Take a look at a parallel account in Mark 10:35-45. What new information do you learn about the dispute? What additional statement is included regarding Jesus’ ultimate act of service?

Apply: Are you a goal-setter? To make daily and weekly goals, you first need to identify your ultimate goal. Does your ultimate goal, the greatness you are seeking, line up more with the world’s definition of greatness or with Jesus’ model of greatness?

Pray: Father, open my eyes to how I can serve You and serve my neighbor today. Forgive me for my pride and laziness, which keep me from pursuing Your path of humility and sacrificial love.

Day 2: **John 13:1-17**

In Luke 22:27, Jesus stated, “But I am among you as the one who serves.” Today we will look at John’s account of the Last Supper, which shows more clearly how Jesus served His disciples at the dinner.

According to verses 1-3, what did Jesus know? What did He purpose to do?

What specific steps did Jesus take to serve His disciples? What was Peter’s response?

Why did Jesus serve the disciples in this way? What did He want to teach them (see especially verses 12-17)?

Apply: Have you humbled yourself and allowed Jesus to cleanse you? Have you learned from Jesus’ example of servanthood to both “know these things” and “do them”? You will be blessed if you do!

Pray: Father, thank You that Jesus loved utterly to the very end. Thank You for His sacrifice that cleanses us of all sins. “Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow” (Psalm 51:7).

Day 3: Luke 22:28-34

In today's verses, we see several snapshots of the disciples' future, both near and far. Although there will be failure, for most of them there will also be a faith that perseveres and a future glory beyond their earthly expectations.

What rewards and responsibilities does Jesus say await His disciples in verses 28-30 (see also Matthew 19:28-29)?

What two powerful forces do we see at work in Peter's life in verses 31-32? What will be the outcome of this battle?

Does Peter think he is prepared for the test that is to come? What does Jesus know?

Apply: There are two powerful forces at work in our lives as well. While we should not underestimate Satan's power to shake us, neither should we overestimate his ability to overcome our faith. Jesus has prayed for you too (John 17:17-23) and continues to intercede for you even now (Romans 8:34-37). Keep pressing on!

Pray: Thank You, Father, that we have not one, but two Counselors who intercede on our behalf (Romans 8:27, 34), even when we do not know how to pray as we ought. Thank You that through this ongoing ministry, You continue to forgive us of our failures and limitations and provide a faith that will not be shaken.

Day 4: **Luke 22:35-38**

In these few verses, Jesus signals to His disciples that things are about to change drastically. This change in circumstances will require a change in necessary supplies and a keen mind, aware of what is coming.

When was it that Jesus had sent out the disciples with no moneybag, knapsack, or sandals?
Read Luke 9:1-6.

Why are Jesus' instructions changing now? What is about to happen? Look at verse 37.

In Luke 22:37, Jesus references Isa. 53:12 and notes that "what is written about me has its fulfillment." In saying this, Jesus is directly stating that He is the fulfillment of Isaiah 53. What else from Isaiah 53 is about to be fulfilled in Jesus?

Apply: In verse 35, the disciples acknowledge that when Jesus sent them out with no provisions to preach in the villages, they lacked nothing. Trust in the Lord to provide for all of your needs as you seek to serve Him. He is our Good Shepherd; we shall not be in want (Psalm 23:1).

Pray: Good Shepherd, lead us beside still waters, restore our soul, and lead us in paths of righteousness for Your name's sake. Thank You for Your goodness and mercy that will follow us all the days of our lives, and especially that we will dwell with You forever.

Day 5: **Luke 22:39-46**

Jesus next goes “as was His custom” to the Mount of Olives with His disciples to pray. Knowing that His time is close at hand, Jesus wrestles with His Father’s will.

Why did Jesus want His disciples to pray?

What did Jesus ask for in His prayer? What did He receive (see verses 42-43)?

Contrast below the effort and emotion of Jesus’ prayer with that of His disciples. Look closely at this text and Matt. 26:36-45.

Apply: One of the purposes of prayer is to be strengthened and spiritually prepared for temptation. Included in the Lord’s Prayer is the request: “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil” (Matthew 6:13). Follow Jesus’ example this week - pray passionately.

Pray: Father, open our eyes to the temptations around us. In our trials, strengthen us and give us eyes to see the way of escape that You have made available to us so that we may turn from sin and stay on Your paths of righteousness.



Luke 22:47-71

The passage opens with Jesus chastising His disciples for sleeping when they should have been praying. As Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, the spiritual battle was escalating to a new level. Notice that the only preparation necessary was to pray. In the next few hours, Jesus is betrayed, arrested, denied, mocked, and abused. Jesus' trials before the Roman authorities will be covered in the next chapter, but in our text this week, the Jews have already convicted Him.

Authenticating Jesus as the Christ, the Son of Man, and the Son of God continues to be a key Lukan theme. These are different titles representing different functions but the same Person. Carefully examine the events we are studying this week. There are no accidents, no surprises, no coincidences, no bad luck, and the enemy has gained no ground. Everything we read is the sovereign, redemptive plan of God. The King of Kings is still in control!

Prepared by Mike Greene

Day 1: Luke 22:47-71

Read the entire text today to get the lay of the land. Pay close attention to how differently Jesus and His disciples react as the events unfold. Look for themes and arguments that Luke has been developing throughout all of our previous studies.

To set the stage and begin our study in context, where was Jesus, and what was He saying as the passage opens in verse 47? The disciples had one job. What was it, and how did they do (see Luke 22:39-46 if you need to refresh your memory)?

From the text, make a list of all the clues and references to the identity and authority of Jesus. Update your list if you find more during the week.

In what ways does Jesus show compassion and grace throughout these ordeals?

Apply: Have you ever noticed how unbelievers denounce God, but some are quick to ask for prayers when trouble comes? Unfortunately, many professing Christians don't do much better. We often turn to prayer as a last resort. However, Jesus made it clear that prayer is our first line of offense and defense. Let prayer be your priority, and trust God with the results. "...*Get up and pray that you may not enter into temptation.*"

Pray: Lord Jesus, teach me to pray and help me in my unbelief. Thank You for Your faithfulness to endure the cross in all of its ugliness for my benefit. Thank you for Your promise never to leave or disown anyone who places their faith and trust in You.

Day 2: Luke 22:47-53

Judas led the priests, the temple officers, the elders, and some Roman soldiers to where he knew Jesus would be praying. Not only did Judas identify Jesus with a kiss, but other gospel accounts also show that Jesus was forthcoming in identifying Himself. In John's account (see John 18), it is no surprise that Peter is identified as the one who drew the sword and cut off the ear of Malchus, a slave of the high priest. Verse 53 indicates Jesus is willing to go forward with the plan, but it also suggests that the "power of darkness" is limited and under His control.

What in the text indicates that Jesus knew why Judas had come with a mob? See Prov. 27:6. What principle can we apply in our relationships today?

Why did Jesus put an abrupt stop to Peter's defense? (hints: Luke 9:44, Luke 22:31, 2 Cor. 10:3-6, Eph. 6:10-18).

How did Jesus point out the hypocrisy and cowardice of the chief priests and the crowd? Why did they think they needed so many people, and why in a remote location at night (see Luke 19:48, 20:19, 22:2)?

Apply: We see the results of the disciples' failure to pray and their lack of understanding. When troubles come, will you pretend like Judas, fight like Peter, or yield to the plan and power of God? Believers are to be defined by the Word, devoted to prayer, and dependent on the Holy Spirit at all times.

Pray: Father, help me to follow the example of Jesus, staying faithful to Your will and Your plan no matter how hard things get. Please help me avoid choosing the wrong battles, fighting the wrong enemies, and trusting in the wrong power.

Day 3: Luke 22:54-62

Jesus was arrested and taken to the first of several trials. There is nothing in the text that suggests that the disciples were expected to follow, but Peter followed at a distance. Peter's courage did not last long.

What happened after the rooster crowed? Who looked at Peter? How did Peter respond?

Despite the embarrassment and shame, how might this incident have strengthened Peter's faith? Exactly when did the rooster crow the third time? What does this incident say about Jesus (see Luke 22:34 and Mark 14:72)?

Why do you think Peter failed after making such a bold commitment? (see Matt. 26:40-41). Do you think he was sincere in his declaration in Luke 22:33?

Apply: Have you ever made an unwavering commitment to Christ and then denied Him? In what ways? If we are honest, we all have in some way. Can you bear "the look?" If you are discouraged, find hope in passages like John 21:12-19 and Acts 4:13.

Pray: Lord, please forgive me for the times I have denied You and robbed You of Your glory. Use me as a vessel of Your grace for Your purpose. Thank You for the grace and mercy that You show me every day.

Day 4: Luke 22:63-65

Jesus was mocked and abused even before being convicted of any crime. The text indicates that these men knew but misunderstood Jesus' claims. Verse 65 shows that they were doing the very thing that they accused Jesus of. The mocking and abuse will intensify later at the hands of the Romans after Jesus appears before Pilate.

How does this part of the story relate to earlier prophecies (See Isa. 50:5-6, 53:1-7)?

Compare this text with the parallel passages (Matt. 26:65-68, Mark 14:63-65, and John 18:22). Note any new information that you find.

Look up the word “blaspheme.” How does Luke’s use of this word add to the significance of what is happening in this passage?

Apply: The sovereign plan of God seems to make no sense at times. It is foolishness to those who are lost. It only makes sense when we know the Person of Christ. He is the object of our faith and our worship. The events that we read about in Scripture verify His identity and His authority. The mocking and abuse that Jesus endured are but a snapshot of the rejection that continues today.

Pray: Father, help me to stand firm in a world that rejects the gift of Your Son. Sometimes the rejection appears subtle, and sometimes it is reckless and violent. By the power of Your Spirit, I choose to love them in ways that they will see Christ in me.

Day 5: Luke 22:66-71

Jesus did not defend or explain Himself during the interrogation by the Council (Sanhedrin). However, He did identify Himself. Their first question is the critical question answered by the book of Luke, "If you are the Christ..." Jesus' confession leads to His conviction, but He committed no crime.

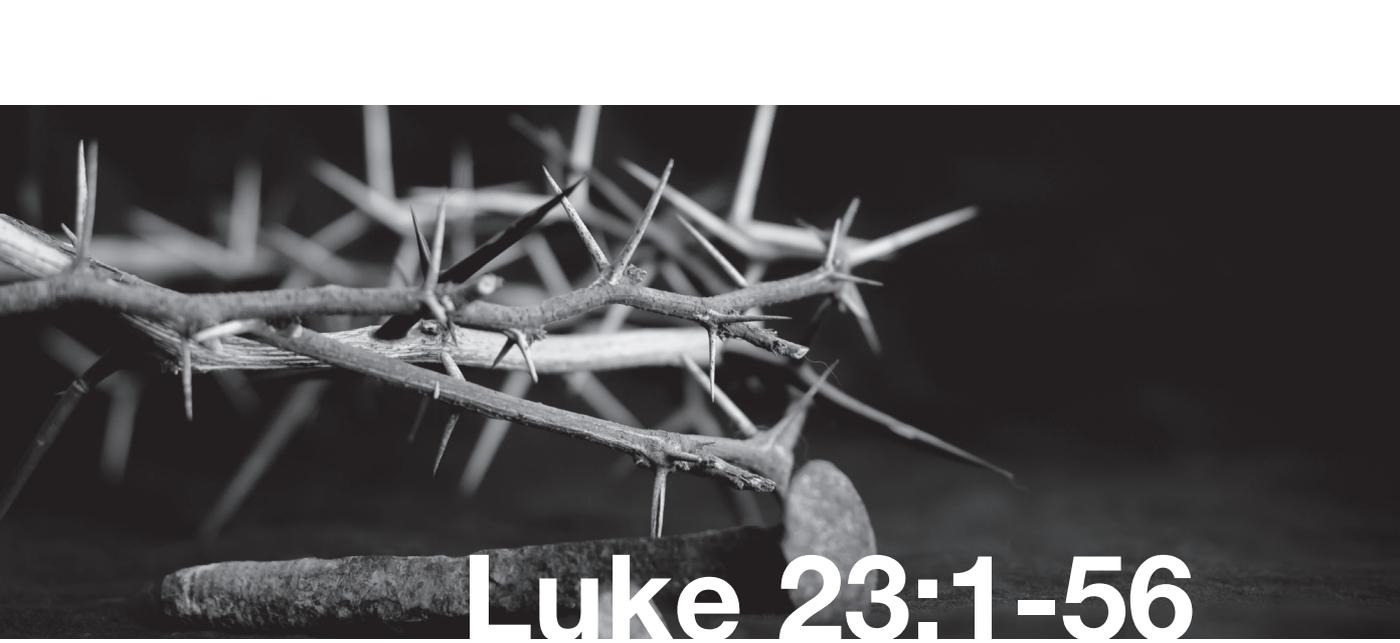
Why did Jesus not defend or explain Himself? How does this interaction compare with the one in Luke 20:1-8?

When Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of Man, how did His interrogators interpret this to mean the Son of God (see Daniel 7:13-14)?

This section of text does not explicitly state the charge against Jesus, but what would you deduce the charge to be from what the text says? Check your answer by looking at Mark 14:64 and John 19:7.

Apply: Is what you know about Jesus based on what you have heard, or is it based on what you have read for yourself in His Word? Our faith is not in an emotional experience; it is in the Person of Christ. We study our Bibles regularly to know Him better and to know Him accurately. The Bible is God's self-revelation; therefore, one way that we love Him is by loving His Word.

Pray: Lord Jesus, You were falsely accused of my crime. I have no words... tears will have to do.



Luke 23:1-56

This week, we will continue to study the trials Jesus faces on His way to the cross as well as the crucifixion event itself. Following the overnight questioning from the Sanhedrin, Jesus will be confronted by Roman officials. These officials acknowledge Jesus' innocence, yet the crowds of priests and people call for Jesus' death. The rulers acquiesce to the mob's demands. While it would seem to be a "kangaroo court" of sorts, we are reminded that these events unfold according to God's eternal plan. Many prophecies of the Bible find their fulfillment in the events Luke recounts for us this week. Jesus is the promised Messiah who has become our sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin.

Prepared by Daniel Brooker

Day 1: Luke 23:1-16

In today's text, Luke will give us the account of Jesus before Pilate and Herod. Two different figures will interrogate Jesus, and both will find Him innocent.

What accusations are brought to Pilate in these verses?

How are these accusations different than those brought by the religious leaders to Jesus himself in Luke 22:67?

Read John 18:29-32. What does this change in accusations reveal about the leaders' motives and intentions?

Apply: One of the goals as a member of the Creek is to love God in our worship. Read 1 Pet. 1:17-20. Think, honestly, about how you plan to respond to today's Scriptures by presenting yourself as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Pray: While I was not physically there to accuse You before Pilate and Herod, I admit that my sin caused You to be put on trial and condemned. Thank You, Jesus, for being my holy sacrifice for forgiveness of my sins. Thank You for loving me enough to face bitterness, anger, and deceit with your perfect innocence on my behalf. Please, Lord Jesus, help me live out my gratitude today by being more like You and less like those who would accuse You.

Day 2: Luke 23:18-25

Today we look at a literal, physical example of the Gospel. Jesus will exchange his freedom for someone who rightfully deserves captivity and punishment. Jesus will take Barabbas' place of deserved condemnation and thus provide him with undeserved mercy and grace.

What do we know about Barabbas from these verses and other biblical accounts (see Matt 27:15-26, Mark 15:6-15, and John 18:40)?

How does the Passover itself, and this custom of prisoner release, relate to the Gospel?

Read John 18:36. How does this narrative of Jesus in exchange for Barabbas further demonstrate that God's Kingdom is not of this world?

Apply: There's nothing like personally experiencing the overwhelming freedom that only comes from Jesus' forgiveness of sin. Think of ways you can love God in your witness today. How do you plan to carry that wonderful testimony of yours into your walk today to witness and share Christ with others?

Pray: Lord God, as often happens, I find myself portrayed in Your Word today. Like Barabbas, I was guilty in my sins until Your Son came to offer me freedom. Like those screaming for your crucifixion, I was in direct opposition to You. Thank You so much for Your love despite my hatred and for bringing me out of sin. Help me today to replace those things with the gifts only Your Spirit can provide.

Day 3: Luke 23:26-49

In today's passage, we will read about the crucifixion. We will also look at this event through the lens of other Scriptures in both the Old and New Testaments. By looking at the crucifixion in this way, we can shape our minds with observation leading us to right thinking, proper interpretation, and transformative application.

Read Matthew's account of the crucifixion in Matthew 27. Now read Psalm 22. How do you see Jesus fulfill these Old Testament Scriptures?

What two different responses do the criminals give when encountering Jesus?

How does this apply to one of two ways that all people will respond to Jesus at some point?

Apply: Jesus is our example of total dependence upon the Father. How can His example of complete trust and submission help you devote yourself to changing your prayers, thoughts, and actions to further line up with God's Word and will?

Pray: Pray with me some of the words from John Ryle, an English evangelical bishop of the 1800s: "Jesus, you were condemned, though innocent. It was that I might be acquitted, though guilty. You wore a crown of thorns, that I might wear the crown of glory. You were stripped of your clothing, that I might be clothed in everlasting righteousness. You were mocked and reviled that I might be honored and blessed. You were reckoned a sinner and numbered among the transgressors that I might be reckoned innocent and justified from all sin. You died one of the most painful and disgraceful deaths so that I might live forevermore, exalted to the highest glory. Thank you for it, my Lord."

Day 4: John 19:16-30

Today we will read the crucifixion story from the Gospel of John. By further exploring the crucifixion through yet another narrative, we can see that Jesus accomplished a lot through his cross work. Like two separate eyewitnesses giving accounts to the evening news, we see multiple facets of the same history-altering event from different perspectives.

Inscriptions on crosses were meant to indicate the person's specific crime. What did the inscription show Jesus was guilty of? How did the chief priests and scribes react?

Look at Leviticus 14:4-7, Numbers 19:6-18, and Psalm 51:7. What repeated words do you find, and how does this relate to Jesus' work on the cross and His last words, "It is finished"?

How can reading more than one account of a common word, event, or theme throughout the Bible bring about more detail and understanding?

Apply: As you love God in His Word, how will you incorporate this practice of cross-referencing into your regular Bible Study? If you already make this a common practice, who else have you taught to improve their Bible study? Why or why not?

Pray: Father in heaven, thank You for Your Son's example of obedience to Your will. Help me to follow Your call on my life even when it might mean sacrifice and suffering. Help me, Lord, stay focused not on my present sufferings but instead on the glory to be revealed in me.

Day 5: Luke 23:50-55

We close our study in Luke 23 with the account of Jesus' burial. One man would take it upon himself to provide a tomb for the Savior, likely at significant personal cost. Read today's text and answer the following questions.

In what ways was Joseph similar to or different from other members of the council/Sanhedrin?

Verse 51 describes Joseph as “looking” or “waiting” (depending on your translation) for the Kingdom of God. This is the same word used to describe both Simeon and Anna in Luke 2. What does this tell you about Joseph?

Why would it be important for eyewitnesses to see Jesus' body being laid in the tomb?

Apply: Like Joseph, we are called to love others through our generosity. How are you developing a regular habit of sacrificial giving to advance God's Kingdom agenda?

Pray: God, Your Son gave his life that Joseph could give his tomb. When left to myself, my focus is on taking, not giving. Help me to be like Joseph, who was being like Jesus. Help me to joyfully plan my use of time, talent, and treasure to advance Your will so that it will be done here on earth as it is in heaven.



Luke 24:13-35

Our journey through Luke continues with a beautiful account of divine revelation and commissioning. The interaction between Jesus and these two disciples has historically been called the “Emmaus Road,” named for the town to which these two disciples traveled. Over this final week of Luke, you’ll notice several themes at work. One is the sovereignty of God and the discipleship of his children. Luke also includes themes of fulfilled prophecy and interpretation of the Old Testament. Finally, Jesus’ patient work with these disciples transforms them from huddled survivors into commissioned worshippers.

We pray that you will be encouraged through this revelation of our resurrected Lord to be all that He has made you for His glory and our good. As we draw this study of Luke to a close, let’s always be thankful for the gift of new life we have in Christ and seek to honor Him with our whole heart and be His commissioned worshippers wherever we may go.

Prepared by Jase Brown

Day 1: Luke 24:13-18

Sometimes irony can be a great teacher. Luke introduces these two disciples and notes that when Jesus approaches, they don't recognize him. This adds to the almost comical irony when one of the disciples named Cleopas asks, "Are you the only person who doesn't know what's going on?" In reality, Jesus is the only one here who truly knows what's going on.

What were the disciples talking about when Jesus began talking with them?

Notice the wording in verse 16 is passive. Who do you think kept them from recognizing Jesus?

Why does Jesus ask these disciples what's going on? Can you think of other examples in Scripture where God uses leading questions to teach? What does this say about how God disciplines his children?

Apply: God takes great care to grow us in ways that produce lasting transformation. It's our job to trust him whether we have all the information or not. Let's worship God as the all-wise King and be ready to step out and walk by faith every day.

Pray: Father, we pray that You would find our hearts open and ready to worship and walk in faith before You regardless if we know the next steps or not. May we be a living sacrifice for Your glory.

Day 2: Luke 24:19-24

Again Luke pours on the irony as Cleopas begins to “educate” Jesus about all the things that have happened. Even with Cleopas only knowing half the story, he gets some essential details correct. Jesus is a prophet mighty before God who was delivered up to die. Yet, his tomb stands empty. What’s important here is the truth known only to Jesus at this point.

Jesus was more than a prophet. What is missing in Cleopas’s understanding of who Jesus is? Can you remember ways that Luke has demonstrated a fuller picture of Jesus?

Jesus was condemned to death. Was Jesus an unwilling participant in this? Why is that detail essential to understand Jesus’ death?

When Cleopas says, “we had hoped he would redeem Israel,” what do you think he meant by that? What is the greater reality about the redemption of Israel?

Apply: We can grow our knowledge about God and his world through our diligent study of His Word. The more time we invest there, and the deeper our understanding, the more we see the plan of God in our lives. Then, as the Word shapes our thinking, we can be men and women after God’s own heart.

Pray: Lord, our eyes are blind without the light of Your Word. May we continually nourish ourselves with Your Scripture as we sit at your feet. We pray that through it, we would come to love the things You love and hate the things You hate so that we would be a holy nation.

Day 3: Luke 24:25-27

After Cleopas's explanation, Jesus finally begins to correct their understanding of what has happened. It's vital to remember verse 16 is still true, which is a sobering thought. Jesus could be standing right in front of us preaching a sermon from the entire Old Testament, and without the Spirit's work, we would still be blind. Nonetheless, he teaches them everything that was prophesied about himself.

Jesus doesn't say "slow to **know** all the prophets have spoken," but "slow to **believe**." What is the difference between the two? What does that say about the times we lack faith?

What are some Old Testament passages that you think Jesus talked to them about? Consider discussing this question with someone else to see if they know some you don't, and vice-versa.

"Moses and all the prophets" is shorthand for the whole Old Testament. Does that statement change how you view the Old Testament? Is it primarily about the Israelites or about their promised descendent?

Apply: It is hard to overstate the power of reading the Word in community. We all come to the text seeking to understand it and grow from it. How much more effective is the Spirit's work through us when we study it together. This is one of the many reasons why Life Groups are so important. When one grows, we all grow!

Pray: Father, we pray that You make us all strong men and women of the Word and that our fellowship over it would bind us together in one purpose and one heart. May Your Spirit dwell in us richly as the temple of the Living God that we are.

Day 4: Luke 24:28-31

They finally reached their destination, and, still unrecognized, Jesus feigned going on ahead. They begged him to stay, and at dinner, after seeing the sign of the communion, their eyes are opened, and they know who exactly is sitting with them. The Spirit working alongside the physical picture of Jesus' broken body jarred their memories. Here the bread is better than the fruit. Adam and Eve's eyes were opened when they ate but opened to evil. These disciple's eyes were opened to the truth of salvation in Christ.

Why do you think the disciples begged Jesus to stay, still not knowing who He was?

What is the significance of breaking the bread as the moment when their eyes were opened (see Luke 22:19)?

What happened immediately after they recognized Jesus?

Apply: When we consider the depth of sin which even affects our mind, is it any wonder that it takes a supernatural work of the Spirit to awaken us? When we share the Gospel, it must be bathed in prayer and a pleading for the Spirit to move. We must have the true Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit to be a faithful witness for the Lord.

Pray: Our Great King, I pray that You make me ready to proclaim Your Gospel even when it's difficult. I know that no one is too far gone that they are beyond Your power to save, so I pray that Your Spirit would reach the hearts and minds of those to whom I've spoken before and will speak soon.

Day 5: Luke 24:31-35

These disciples finally see the Risen Savior for who He is, only to have him immediately vanish. But they know the truth. Today we're going to see how they react to this revelation of Jesus and how we can emulate their example.

How do the disciples describe what it was like to hear Jesus teach?

What did they do immediately after realizing they had seen Jesus? What detail makes their decision so extraordinary?

Whose testimony is also included as the disciples gather? What's important about having multiple eyewitnesses?

Apply: Jesus never directly commissioned these two disciples to spread the news of the Gospel, but He didn't have to. The message of the Gospel is so weighty it demands to be shared. They understood this was the most significant news anyone would ever hear, so they skipped dinner, leisure time, and sleep to get the word out. In their minds, this was the most important and eternal task they could do right then and there.

Pray: Father, I confess my heart has often grown cold to Your Gospel and the urgency it demands. I pray that You restore to me the joy of my salvation, and I continue to proclaim Your greatness to those who still walk in darkness. May Your Gospel be ever present on my mind, heart, and lips.



Luke 24:36-53

The reality of Jesus' death had given way to tentative optimism among a few of his disciples, as rumors swirled that Jesus was actually alive. A few of the women who traveled with Jesus had been to the tomb and it was empty – or so they said. Peter had gone to the tomb and witnessed that the body was gone, but did that prove Jesus was alive? What's more, a couple of Jesus' followers had recently come back to Jerusalem with an incredible story. They said Jesus Himself had appeared to them on the road and even taught them from the Scriptures. Only, they hadn't even recognized Him at first, and by the time they did, He vanished! What does any of this mean?

As we come to the last few paragraphs of Luke's Gospel, many of Jesus' disciples still do not know what to believe. They had heard whispers of a resurrection, but many of them dismissed such talk. In our study this week, we'll see Jesus definitively and bodily visit His followers, proving once and for all that He rose from the dead. Not only does He appear to them, but he teaches them from the Scripture about everything that had just happened, so they will move forward in confidence, knowing that Christ perfectly fulfilled God's plan.

Prepared by Pastor Jason Hall

Day 1: Luke 24:36-43

The two previous episodes of Jesus' resurrection appearances had been to only a handful of the disciples, but in today's passage, we see Jesus finally reveal himself to them as a group. As we will see, their reaction is predictable, for no one had ever before arisen from the dead under their own power.

Read closely verses 36-38. What is the disciples' reaction at Jesus' (apparently sudden) appearance? Why did they react this way, according to Jesus?

What does Jesus encourage them to do, to prove that He has a real body and is not just a ghost or spirit?

What is the significance of Jesus encouraging them to touch His hands and feet?

Apply: Jesus rose from the grave bodily and will live eternally in that same body. Because Jesus is the “firstborn from the dead,” all those who are united to Him by faith will also live forever, bodily, in God's forever Kingdom. Keep your eyes up and focused on the coming King!

Pray: Lord, I worship You as the resurrected King of all, who proved Your exaltation by rising from the dead. Give me hope that is firmly fixed on You and not on anything in this earth.

Day 2: Luke 24:44-49

Jesus resumes His teaching ministry with His disciples, and how does He do it? With review. What Jesus reiterates after His death, burial and resurrection is the same thing he emphasized before: That God's Word is faithful, that God's Word is all about Him, and that this message of His Kingdom needs to spread far and wide!

When Jesus talks about “the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms,” to what is he referring?

In verse 45, Luke writes that Jesus “opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.” Look back at Luke 8:10, and also look at what Paul writes in 1 Cor. 2:10-13. In light of those verses, how are minds opened to understand the Word of God?

Look closely again at verses 47-49, answering these questions below: What is the message? Where will it go? How will it get there?

Apply: Every part of the Scripture testifies in some way to the lordship of Jesus, and His glory is the message for us to proclaim. Be faithful to teach someone the Bible this week, even if only by sharing a verse with a co-worker, doing a devotion with your family, or posting an encouraging, Christ-honoring passage on social media.

Pray: Lord, thank You for sanctifying me in the truth of Your Word. Instruct my heart in it that I may be faithful to share Your Word, first in my home and then wherever I go.

Day 3: Matthew 28:18-20

Before we come back to the last paragraph in Luke's Gospel, we're going to spend a couple of days looking at some parallel passages that record Jesus' parting instructions to His church. Today it is Matt. 28:18-20, a passage commonly known as the Great Commission. These are Jesus' final words to His followers and contain the "marching orders" for His people until His return.

How far does Jesus' authority extend?

Because of Jesus' authority, He tells His followers to go and do what primary thing? And further, how are they to do that? (Hint: Look for the -ing words in verses 19 and 20)

What promise does Jesus give to His followers as He gives them these commands?

Apply: The church's mission, and by extension the task of each of His followers, is to make disciples. Are you engaged in the disciple-making process? If so, give thanks to the Lord for His grace in giving you that chance. If not, will you take the primary step of obedience as a Christ-follower?

Pray: Lord, I trust You in everything, both because You have infinite authority and because You have given us Your presence through Your Spirit. Give me a deep resolve to follow and obey You.

Day 4: Acts 1:6-8

The other passage we'll examine before we close our study in Luke is Acts 1:6-8. You'll recall that the book of Acts is actually "Luke Part 2." By that, we mean that Luke wrote Acts and intended it to be the continuation of the story of Jesus' work in the world through the Holy Spirit's indwelling of His disciples. In the opening chapter of Acts, Luke adds some details of the post-resurrection conversations between the Lord and His followers, in which Jesus gives clear instructions for what they are to do.

Based on their question to Jesus in verse 6, what were the disciples assuming was next on Jesus' agenda after rising from the dead?

How does Jesus correct their presuppositions with His answer in verse 7?

Look at the extent of Jesus' commands to His disciples in verse 8. How is it different than their expectations expressed back in verse 6?

Apply: Jesus called His followers to be witnesses not just to Israel but to the entire world. The glory of God's Kingdom is that it includes people from every tribe and tongue on the planet. Review the church's discipleship core value, "love others while on mission." Commit to being involved in world evangelization through praying, giving, and going.

Pray: Lord, give me a heart to be on mission with You, sharing the Gospel with my neighbors and being open to wherever You would send and use me. Show me how I can be an effective missionary wherever I go.

Day 5: Luke 24:50-53

We finish our six-month journey through Luke's Gospel with the encouragement that our King is alive and reigning right now, today, and because of that, we have nothing to fear. When Jesus ascended into heaven after His resurrection, He didn't just leave His followers with commands. He left them with blessings as well.

How did the disciples respond to watching Jesus depart? Note below the three things they did, as recorded in verses 52-53.

Read Eph. 1:20-23. What is Jesus' current position, and what is He doing from there?

Read Rom. 8:33-39. As we finish our study in Luke and reflect upon the glory of our Savior, write below some of what you see are the present benefits of Christ's intercession for us.

Apply: We are eternally secure in Christ. No earthly or heavenly power can separate Christ from His people, and He is actively working for us from His supreme place at the right hand of the Father. Let that truth dominate your thinking, speaking, and doing today.

Pray: Jesus, You are Lord above all, and I exalt and praise Your holy name. Thank You for praying for me, holding me, and delivering me into Your eternal Kingdom.