

## Weekend

1. Think over this week's studies (your notes will help you to do this). Note again the response of the people to Jesus' words and actions. What produced a good response? What had the opposite effect? Why do you think Jesus chose those moments to say or do what he said and did? What was the response he wanted - and what is your own response to Jesus' teaching, e.g. in Luke 14:25-34?
2. Read through the first twenty chapters of Luke to gain an overall picture. It is important not to get into the habit of reading the Bible for only details. As in viewing a photograph or landscape painting, details make more sense in a larger context.
3. David Gooding has written about this book: *'One of the most beautiful features of the Gospel of Luke is the way it depicts Christ as the Champion and Saviour of the outcast and oppressed, as the One who can restore to true human dignity men and women whom life has somehow warped'* – "Windows on Paradise" (Everyday Publications). Pen brief sketches of several unfortunate or outcast people you have met in Luke whom Jesus helped. Some suggestions are: a prostitute (7:36-83), a swindler (5:27-32; 18:9-14), a widow (7:11-17).

## Sermon Notes



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### Meeting With God Bible Reading Notes

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**9<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

## Week 15: The Gospel of Luke, 2 (A Historical Study)

Do you remember what we said last week about our 3 weeks of studies in Luke's Gospel?

- Week 14 - we see how Jesus came **in** to the world
- Week 15 - how he went **on** to Jerusalem
- Week 16 - the narrative surrounding his going **out** of this world.

Today we start a new phase in Luke's account of Jesus' ministry. On the mountain, while transfigured, the Lord had spoken with Moses and Elijah about his departure (literally 'exodus') which he would accomplish at Jerusalem. This week we consider Jesus going on to Jerusalem (see Luke 9:51, which clearly marks the start of a new section in Luke's account). In this section, Luke lays considerable emphasis on Jesus' teaching - perhaps more than on his actions.

### Day 1. Priorities

#### **Luke 9:51 – 10:42**

1. Survey today's passage and make a note of the priorities that are commended. For example, what was most important for:
  - Jesus in 9:51-53?
  - would-be followers in 9:54-62?
  - those whom Jesus sent out in 10:1-20?
  - the lawyer - and the characters in the story in 10:25-37?
  - Mary and Martha in 10:38-42?
2. What are the most important goals in your life? In the light of Luke 10:21-24, how can you be sure that you have your priorities right?
3. How single-minded are you over doing what you know to be right? Do you want to follow God's way whatever the cost, even overcoming deeply-rooted prejudices? Are you holding on to selfish ambitions?

**Prayer time:** Don't put your Bible and notebook away without first confessing your own specific sins and failings to God in view of what you have learned today. Then ask for God's help to do what is right above all else.

### Day 2. Prayer

## **Luke 11:1-13; 18:1-14**

Throughout Luke's record, he showed Jesus' dependence upon prayer (see 6:12; 22:39-46). He wanted his disciples to know how to pray by his example and by what he said. As well as giving this example of prayer though, Jesus tells some stories to illustrate important principles for praying.

1. What lessons about prayer are taught by each of Jesus' stories in: (a) Luke 11:5-13; (b) Luke 18:1-8; (c) Luke 18:9-14?

**Note:** Luke explicitly records the point Jesus is making in each of these stories. Make sure you get that before looking for other possible lessons in prayer in these passages.

2. Which aspects of the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4) are illustrated by each of these three parables?

**Pray:** Use the form of words Jesus gave to his followers as a pattern for your praying today. (See Luke 11:2-4)

There is an excellent chapter on prayer in John White's book *The Fight* (IVP). Other useful books to look out for are, David Hubbard, *Teach Us to Pray* (IVP), O.Hallesby, *Prayer* (IVP) and John White, *People in Prayer* (IVP).

## **Day 3. Preaching**

### **Luke 12:1 – 13:5**

Included in Luke's history is a record of much of Jesus' preaching. While some of his teaching was addressed to a small group of his followers (e.g. 12:1ff.), other parts were preached to large crowds (e.g. 12:54ff.).

1. Fear God ... and fear no man!' (see 12:1-12). What consolation does Jesus give his disciples in view of the threats of the Pharisees? And what reasons does he add that they should fear God, but fear no man?
2. 'Money isn't everything!' (see 12:13-34). How does Jesus illustrate this statement?
3. 'This world won't last forever' (see 12:35-53). How does Jesus' teaching put our lives into an eternal perspective? And how ought we to live now?
4. 'Be warned!' (see 12:54 -13:5). How does the Lord warn the crowds in view of coming judgment?

**Pray** for your friends who are unaware of God's eternal perspective on life. Ask God to show you both how to warn them, and how to demonstrate the relevance of the unseen world and spiritual reality by the way you live.

## **Day 4. Parables**

### **Luke 15:1-31**

As you have been reading through Luke's Gospel, you will have already seen that

one of Jesus' favourite teaching tools was the parable: a story with a clear point to it.

**Note:** It is worth distinguishing a parable from an allegory - such as John 15:1-16 - where the illustration fits piece by piece to the reality. If you look for too much significance in parables you can get strange results!

In chapter 15, Luke records a parable Jesus told in three parts to Pharisees and teachers of the law (verse 2).

1. What is the point of the stories of the lost sheep and the lost coin? (You will see that this is stated quite clearly in the text.) How is the same lesson taught in the story of the lost son (verses 11-32)?
2. Notice Jesus' method: from 100 sheep, through the 10 coins, the Lord sharpens his focus on 2 men. If the younger son's repentance brought joy to the father, what lesson is to be learned from the older brother's behaviour, bearing in mind Jesus' audience?

How frequently do you rejoice that you have been lost and now found, or do you sometimes forget that you have needed to repent?

## **Day 5. People**

### **Luke 18:18 – 19:10**

Luke portrays the characters in his account in very clear and realistic detail. These are no fairy-tale types. And to see how Jesus deals with people certainly bears a stamp of authenticity. In today's passage we contrast three people. The first is a synagogue official who would be well skilled in the Old Testament Law; the second, a blind beggar; the third, a collaborator with the Roman occupying forces.

1. Read the passage, then divide a page of your notebook into three columns. In each of the columns, list the characteristics of the three men you have read about e.g. rich or poor; upright or dishonest; self-sufficient or needy; socially acceptable or unacceptable to Jesus. Add other characteristics you can see from the text so that you have as full a picture of each as possible.
2. At the foot of each column, note which men benefited from their encounter with Jesus. Why did one go away sad, while the other two received what they needed?
3. What lessons can you learn about money from the three men you have been thinking about? How does the example of the disciples help you to view your possessions in the light of eternity - and of Jesus' self-sacrifice for us? (see Luke 18:24-34).

**Pray about your own attitude to money.** Ask God to reveal any wrong thinking you may have, and whether you demonstrate His Lordship over your life by giving generously and in a right manner to God's work and His kingdom.