

Luke Lesson 6

Ice Breaker: What do you own that you really treasure (jewelry, pictures, books). Perhaps it is something that you would like to pass on to others. Or If you had five minutes to pack up and leave... what would you take? What do you value?

Whew!! What a study!!! Even though it was a quick overview over these chapters, I liked that it was a great review over what I thought was familiar. Many events in these chapters are unique to Luke. Again, who was Luke's original audience and what was his intent or purpose...Gentiles and to show who Jesus truly is

For those groups that decide to go through the chapter as it is, cover what you can in your time frame. I have chosen to focus on four sections and the following notes are on those four sections.

1. Count the cost 9:57-62 (pp75-77) Jesus has left Galilee and "set his face" to go to Jerusalem. At first glance, we feel for these three men. They seemed to have the right questions/ excuses/delays before they would follow Jesus completely. Luke 14: 15-24 is similar on the invitation to the banquet. These reasons/ excuses do sound valid, don't they? **What is really behind those excuses? What do we want to control? What are OUR "excuses"?**

There was a lot of Yes... but... **Is our Christianity an "add on" to our life?** These are hard questions when we see our responsibility with our families, homes and work. **What do you think Jesus was teaching the crowd and His disciples by this discussion? What does it mean to be "fit for the kingdom of God"? Are we pressing forward?**

2. **Are you ready? 12:1-59** (pp80-82) Ah...worry and anxiety. These issues seem never ending! **What causes us to doubt, to not believe? Are we willing to wait upon the Lord (Isaiah 40:31)? Is it not being able to control the situation? Can we pray about what is going on and then rest in the Lord to do as He wills? (There are some good books in the library on anxiety ☺)**

Worry is unbelief Luke 17:5 Amplified ⁵The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith [our ability to confidently trust in God and in His power]."

Mark 9:24. Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief. Most Christians can identify with this man from time to time. It is the acknowledgement of our inadequacy that allows God to work in our lives. Christians know what the Bible says, and we do trust God to take care of and direct our lives, but sometimes we are faced with something that seems to overpower our faith. We don't seem to have enough faith to follow Him **in that moment**, so we ask for more faith. We acknowledge that even our faith comes from God. It is His work in our lives that enables us to believe and obey. "I believe; help my unbelief" is at once a statement of faith and an admission that our faith is far from perfect. <https://www.gotquestions.org/I-believe-help-my-unbelief.htm>

It's easy to believe the promise that God works things for my good when good things have come to fruition; it's easy to believe that God is near when He feels near. My feelings and experiences tell a different story than the Word of God. Faith is not a warm and fuzzy feeling. Rather it is a willful choice to believe in the reliability of God even when that belief is lacking in physical evidence. It's God's kind grace when He allows my feelings to run parallel with the truth of His Word. The test of faith comes when my feelings veer off to the left and God's Word goes to the right. Here I must make a willful choice to place my faith in what I deem most reliable—my feelings or God's Word. Kelly Needham "When Feelings and Faith Disagree"

What is our Treasure? Where is our Treasure? Matthew 13:44-46⁴⁴ "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field. ⁴⁵"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. ⁴⁶When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!

What is the man willing to do to get the treasure and the pearl? What is the treasure/pearl? Will we sacrifice everything to get our treasure in Christ? Is our salvation greater than any other thing?

So... from what we read above... How do we get "more faith"

How do we get more faith? First---REMEMBER what God has done and how He has led you throughout your life, be grateful-full of thanksgiving, ask for it, wait for it, not rush ahead of God's timing, rest in Him, stop fussing and being agitated about our situation, be obedient to what we know (prayer, time in the Word, being a part of the body-church-tithe, caring for each other, giving others (poor) , come before the Lord and ask for forgiveness for our known and unknown sins, look at our life-style and habits and repent, who do we need to forgive and/or ask for forgiveness, what/who are we praying for, see suffering and trials as God working in our lives to sanctify us and realize that all things work together for good, love as God loves.

(1 John, Matt 16:24, James 1:27, 1 Thess 5:6-8, John 15:4,8, John 14:, Romans 8:28, James 1:2-4, Isaiah 40:31, Mark 11:24-25, Hebrews 10:35, Prov 19:17, 1 John 5:3, Matthew 6:7-13, Romans 14:8, Phil 4:8-9, 1 Cor 13)

3. Be Warned 14:26-33 (p83) Jesus speaks again about "bearing the cross". He is not talking in "easy believism" language. He is constantly challenging them and making sure they understand what he is telling them about what it means to fully FOLLOW Him. **If we are to honor our fathers and mothers what does He mean in verse 33?**

Matthew 16:26 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? **Is anything worth more than your soul?**

RC Sproul talked about what is the meaning of VALUE. It is what we view as significant, worthy, our own personal preference of what is important. He challenged us to line up our values... what we think is important to what God says is important...HIS VALUES. We are to love what God/Jesus loves!!! **How do we discover what He loves/values?** We are match our values with God's... not what we think is important. So... this is where Luke 10:27 opens this up.

Luke 10:27 The man answered, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

How do we LOVE GOD? Let's brainstorm together ... if you love someone (spouse, children, parents, friends, etc. what does that look like? See handout

We are also to count the cost..

"Counting the cost" means recognizing and agreeing to some terms first. In following Christ, we cannot simply follow our own inclinations. We cannot follow Him and the world's way at the same time ([Matthew 7:13-14](#)). Following Him may mean we lose relationships, dreams, material things, or even our lives. We cannot earn salvation by lifestyle change or any other good deed ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). But when we choose to follow Christ, we are releasing control of our lives. When Jesus is in control, pure living results ([1 John 3:4-10](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). Got questions

4. Redeeming the Time 19:11-27 (p 88) The crowd thought the kingdom of God... the Messiah had come and they were ready to follow Him into Jerusalem to conquer the Romans. (Big back story that you can get from RC or MacArthur) . The focus of this section focuses on what God has given to us all individually to be used for His glory. We are to be good stewards of the resources we are given. Nothing we have belongs to us... all belongs to Him. But the third man shows that he only wanted to play it safe and not risk anything for God. **Was he a believer? What holds you back from giving your all to Christ or encouraging others to give their all?**

What happens when we try to live with our feet in both worlds? **Revelation 3: 15** "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! **16** But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!

"What does it mean to seek first the kingdom of God?" Answer: We are to seek the things of God as a priority over the things of the world. Primarily, it means we are to seek the salvation that is inherent in the kingdom of God because it is of greater value than all the world's riches. Does this mean that we should neglect the reasonable and daily duties that help sustain our lives? Certainly not. But for the Christian, there should be a difference in attitude toward them. If we are taking care of God's business as a priority—seeking His salvation, living in obedience to Him, and sharing the good news of the kingdom with others—then He will take care of our business as He promised—and if that's the arrangement, where is worrying? **But how do we know if we're truly seeking God's kingdom first?** There are questions we can ask ourselves. "Where do I primarily spend my energies? Is all my time and money spent on goods and activities that will certainly perish, or in the services of God—the results of which live on for eternity.