

Front

Line

**Good News from Dr Luke
Part 3**

"... when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

- Luke 15:9-10 -

Good News from Dr Luke – Part 3

We started studying through this ‘Good News from Dr Luke’ at the end of January. So, it may be helpful to remember the big picture of where we have been.

The book of Luke can be split into 4 main sections.

Section 1 (chapters 1-2): In this section the focus is on introducing Jesus as the promised Messiah. First as a vulnerable baby, and then growing into a young man full of wisdom and stature, in favour with God and with people.

Section 2 (chapters 3-8): These chapters focus on the supernatural ministry of Jesus among the general population. Wherever Jesus goes, he is teaching, healing, casting out unclean spirits, and all the people are amazed. They believe that Jesus is the promised Messiah because they have seen his deeds.

Section 3 (chapters 9-20): In this section, Jesus turns his focus onto preparing his smaller group of disciples for ministry. Jesus begins to make clear to them that they must learn to walk in his ways and minister as he has taught them. The disciples stumble and fail – but Jesus patiently continues to disciple them.

Section 4 (chapters 21-24): These chapters focus on the betrayal, death, and resurrection of Jesus – but also finish with the sending of the disciples to carry on the ministry of Jesus empowered by the Spirit.

As you can see, these next six weeks are smack bang in the middle of Section 3. And as we study them, we will be challenged just as those first disciples were – to not only hear the message of Jesus, but to put it into practice. By definition, a challenge is challenging! It will not be easy to apply these teachings. But in them there is abundant life for us and for the world around us.

Over these next series, may we welcome the Spirit’s work within us as we seek to be continuously transformed into faithful disciples of Jesus Christ – the promised Messiah and living God.

May God bless you richly,

Rev’d Scott Windred
St Barnabas Sunnybank

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Week 1 - Committed to Discipleship

Warming up: What is the most expensive thing you've ever done (e.g., wedding, house, etc.)?

Read: 14:25-35

1. Where is Jesus at this point in his ministry and why are large crowds following him?
2. How would you summarise Jesus' message to the crowds?
3. Is Jesus asking his disciples to hate people in verses 25-27? Why / why not?
4. What does it look like to 'carry your cross' as a disciple of Jesus?
5. In verses 28-30 Jesus uses an example of building a tower. What do you think his point is and what does this have to do with the cost of following him?
6. As disciples of Jesus, why do we need to plan for the future?
7. In verses 31-33 Jesus uses another example of a king going to war. What do you think his point is and what does this have to do with the cost of being a disciple of Jesus?
8. What does it look like to give up everything for Jesus and how do you do it?
9. In Jesus' day, salt was often mixed with additives by those who sold it to make more money. The real salt would leech out of the block over time. What is Jesus' main point in verses 34-35 and what has this got to do with following him?
10. Using the word SALT, write down a word poem to help you summarise this passage (e.g., **S**elect Jesus above all, **A**sk yourself the cost, **L**ive for Jesus, **T**arget saltiness).

Rubber hits the road: How can you remain ‘salty’ in your walk with Jesus? As a group or by yourself, list three things you can do soon to make sure you stay ‘salty’.

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

God of the ages, you call the Church to keep watch in the world and to discern the signs of the times. Grant us the wisdom that your Spirit bestows, so that with courage we may proclaim your prophetic word, and complete the work you have set before us, through your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

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Week 2 - Committed to the Lost

Warming Up: Did you ever run away from home? Where did you go? What happened?

Read: Luke 15:1-10

1. What type of people were naturally drawn to Jesus and why?
2. Jesus told the grumbling Pharisees parables about a lost sheep and a lost coin. What is God concerned about? What do we learn about His heart?
3. How are the Pharisees just as lost as the sinners they despised?
4. From these two parables, what do we learn about God's responsibility vs. man's responsibility regarding salvation?
5. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. How can we more like Jesus in this?

Read: Luke 15:11-32

6. What happened to the younger son after he left his father and what did the consequences of his wilful and selfish behaviour teach him?
7. How does sin promise enjoyment but bring enslavement? How does obedience to God's will bring true freedom?
8. How did the father react to seeing his son even before the son's apology? How does this reflect God's disposition towards the lost?
9. List the ways the older brother showed unforgiveness to his brother and father. What joys did he miss out on because of his unforgiveness?

Rubber hits the road: This week spend some time thinking about people you need to receive the same way your heavenly father has received you through Christ.

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

Undaunted you seek the lost, O God, exultant you bring home the found. Touch our hearts with wonder at the tenderness of your love; grant us delight in the mercy that has found us; and bring all to rejoice at the feast of forgiven sinners. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

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Week 3 - Committed to Service

Warming Up: How do you go with bargaining? Are you a shrewd businessperson? Why / Why not?

Read: Luke 16:1-13

1. Who is Jesus saying these words to?
2. What was the accusation that was made against the manager?
3. What was the manager's motivation for what he did in verses 3-7?
4. Were the manager's actions in line with how he was described in verse 1?
5. In verse 8, the rich master 'commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly'. Do you think the master was pleased, astounded, or something else?
6. The manager had been dishonest with a little, and then he was dishonest with much. What point do you think Jesus is trying to make in verses 11-12?
7. What is the punchline of Jesus' story in verse 13?

Read: Luke 16:14-15

8. How does Luke describe the Pharisees? What does Jesus say to them?

Rubber hits the road: The dishonest manager lacked integrity and was selfish. How can you partner with God and be a good steward of what God has entrusted to you this week?

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Week 4 - Committed to Seeing

Warming Up: What charities and causes do you support and why?

Read: Luke 16:19-31

1. What parts of this parable stick out for you? Are there parts you don't understand?
2. How does the rich person treat Lazarus before he dies?
3. What's significant about Jesus telling us Lazarus' name but not the name of the rich man?
4. What would have life been like for Lazarus?
5. Where does Lazarus end up after he dies and where does this rich man end up?
6. What does this parable have to tell us about the reality of hell?
7. How does the rich man want to treat Lazarus after he dies?
8. Why does God not give into the rich man's request?
9. What would eternity be like for the rich man?
10. Do you identify more with the rich man or with Lazarus? Why?
11. What part of Jesus' story could he be referring to in verse 31?

Rubber hits the road: How should this passage impact on the way we give money to church and the way we give to charities that support people in need? What are some of my giving habits that I need to continue? What are some of my giving habits that need to change?

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

O God, from whom light rises in darkness for those who seek you; grant us in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that in your light we may see light, and in your narrow path we may not stumble, living always to share the good news of Jesus.

Amen.

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Week 5 - Committed to Faith

Warming Up: Have you ever caused someone to stumble or got in the way of their success? How did you feel? Why did you feel you needed to get in the way?

Read: Luke 17:1-10

1. What are those who have been sinned against called to do when the other person repents? Why?
2. How is forgiveness a blessing to give and also to receive? How is it both a test to our faith and our love?
3. A mustard seed is small but has life in it and can grow. How does a living faith enable growth in the believer?
4. Read verses 7-10. What is the servant's job? What would he never expect after coming in from a hard day's work in the field? Rather, what would he expect? What should servants of God learn from this?
5. How does the story of the unworthy servant point us to God's grace?
6. Read verse 10 again. What does it mean to have the mindset of an unworthy servant? How can we do this (see 1 Corinthians 15:10)?
7. What does God promise to those who serve him faithfully day in and day out?

Rubber hits the road: This week spend some time reflecting on what ways you have seen God grow your faith. What has God given you personally to steward, and how are you using His blessings to bless others?

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

Faithful God, have mercy on us your unworthy servants, and increase our faith, that, trusting in your Spirit's power to work in us and through us, we may never be ashamed to witness to our Lord but may obediently serve him all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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Week 6 - Committed to Praise

Warming Up: What is something that you can give thanks to God for as you look back at the past week?

Read: Luke 17:11-19

1. Have a look at a map of Israel in time of Jesus. Can you identify the border between Galilee and Samaria? Can you find Jerusalem?
2. How would you explain leprosy to someone who hadn't heard of it?
3. Why would the ten men with leprosy be standing at a distance from Jesus?
4. What is the significance of what they say to Jesus?
5. Why would Jesus tell them to show themselves to the priests?
6. Luke explains that "as they went, they were cleansed." Why is this significant?
7. Why would Luke include the detail of the thankful man being a Samaritan?
8. What do you think might have happened to the other nine?
9. How does this story make you feel?

Rubber hits the road: Are there things in your life that you have forgotten to thank God for? Take some time this week to thank God for his many blessings.

NOTES / PRAYER POINTS / ETC.

Prayer

God, you have made all that is right and good. We are sorry for the times when we have forgotten to thank you. May praise always be on our lips as we thank you for all that you have done, for all that you are doing, and for all that you will do in the future. In the big and in the small, we thank and praise you. Amen.

“Jesus said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

- Luke 16:31 -



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