

WE

The King & His Kingdom

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RED MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Welcome! You have this journal in your hands because it is an important part of our fall series, “WE.” Throughout this series we will be journaling through the Gospel of Luke together as a church family. Thanks for joining us!

This journal is an integral part to our series, as it will help facilitate a personal interaction for each of us with the Gospel according to Luke. We have found that one of the most beneficial things to bring about Christian Maturity is to develop a personal habit of interaction with the Scriptures. The “WE” journal is primarily designed to help you develop this habit. As a result of reading and answering the questions, our desire is that we would mature in our walk with the Lord, in our ability to understand the Bible and grow in our relationships with others.

Our prayer for this journal comes from Psalm 90:16:
*“Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.”
Amen.*

-The Elders of Red Mountain Community Church

If you have any questions while going through this journal, we would love to help. Just email info@rmcchurch.org with your question and one of our pastors will get back to you within a few days.

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Questions:

The reading is divided into six weeks, with readings for five days of each week. Each day there are four questions to help facilitate your study of the text. As you read Luke and go through the journal you will run into questions concerning four main ideas:

1. What is the context of this passage?
2. Why did Luke put this story in his gospel? How does it contribute to his overall message?
3. How can you imitate Jesus in light of this passage?
4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

We view these as the basic questions one should ask when studying the Bible. The point is not necessarily to find out the exact answers to each question, but rather to simply help facilitate a personal interaction with God's word.

*All Scripture references, quotes and questions are based off of the ESV translation of Scripture.

Themes:

On the following pages you will see six themes occurring in Luke's Gospel. As you read, you will notice them time and time again. To aid in the process of seeing these as you read, we will point out a number of specific instances where the questions we ask address one of these themes. You will notice that each theme has a icon. When a question is asked having to do with a particular theme, you will see the corresponding icon as well. All of this is simply to aid you in understanding and meditating on Luke's Gospel.

(THEMES)

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is mentioned 12 times in chapters one through four of Luke alone, clearly making it a theme throughout the book. Look for ways that Luke incorporates the Holy Spirit into his writing as you read.

OPPOSITION TO JESUS

This opposition is clear from the very start of Jesus' ministry (4:28-30), and Luke is sure not to leave it out. It all reminds us that opposition always surfaces as God's King and His kingdom move among fallen people in this fallen world.

FEAR AND AMAZEMENT

To Luke, fear seems to be an important human emotion. As you read the book of Luke, watch for the frequent reactions of fear and amazement by believers and unbelievers to the spiritual and physical powers Jesus displays and how Jesus reacts.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Luke repeatedly references the Kingdom of God in his writings. Make special note of how he talks about what the Kingdom requires of any who would experience it and what doing Kingdom business involves.

OLD TESTAMENT FULFILLMENTS

The truth is that Jesus fulfilled Old Testament projections of Christ. It is very apparent that Luke wants Theophilus to be convinced of this. Be looking for and noting how Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies.

ALL NATIONS BLESSED

Luke indicates that God's salvation extended to all nations. This is a clear and important theme in the book of Luke. Look for the numerous references to this from the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry in Luke's account.

*For more in-depth descriptions of these themes see page 80

WE *(EK 1)*

AUGUST 21 - AUGUST 27

Luke 1:1 - 4:30


DAY 1 Luke 1:1-56

1. This book is written by a gentile named Luke to another gentile named Theophilus. According to verse 4, what was Luke's purpose in writing it? Why is a written record so important when it comes to passing on the truth?



2. Verses 15, 17, 35, and 41 each speak about the Holy Spirit bringing about something through a person. What are some of those things He brought about in this chapter through people?





3. Read verse 37. It is challenging. What is something very difficult that you feel you should ask the Lord to do in your life?

4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 2 Luke 1:57-80

1. The emotion of fear is mentioned five times in this chapter (in verses 1:13, 30, 50, 65, 74). Why do you think that when God begins to do something personal in us our first response is often fear? In what sense is that okay and in what sense is it bad?



2. The Holy Spirit fills Zachariah in verse 67. What have you learned about the filling of the Holy Spirit over the past few months? What is something that hinders you from experiencing more of the Holy Spirit in your life?



3. Verse 80 says that John “became strong in spirit.” What does that mean? Much is said of inner strength these days; what kind of inner strength is honoring to God and what kind actually hinders us from being godly?




4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 3 Luke 2:1-52

1. Some details are given by Luke about some of the circumstances that surrounded the birth of Jesus. What details are most interesting and significant to you?

2. In verses 2:25-26 we see the activity of the Holy Spirit once again, this time in a man named Simeon. What did the Holy Spirit do in him and through him? Have you experienced any of these things? Can you?





3. In verse 2:40 we are told of Jesus, “the favor of God was upon Him.” What do you think this means? What sorts of things do you think accompany God’s grace/favor in a life? Do you think it means Jesus was trouble-free?

4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 4 Luke 3:1-38

1. Read verses 3:1-6. Luke often tells his readers that certain things fulfill something written in the Old Testament. Why is this so significant and important for us to know?



2. In verses 3:7-14 Luke gives us a sampling of the content and tone of John's message. What are some things you observe about John and his message? Do you notice a difference between John's approach and Jesus' approach?

3. In verses 3:16-22 Luke associates the Holy Spirit with Jesus' ministry. What do you think Luke is preparing us for by doing this? What do you anticipate seeing in Luke's description of Jesus' ministry by this association he makes?



4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 5 Luke 4:1-30

1. Why do you think that in God's plan it was important that Jesus go through this season of temptation? In what ways was Jesus' temptation like yours and in what ways was it different? What things were important to Jesus' victory?

2. Luke presents Jesus as "full of the Spirit" (verse 4:1), being "in the power of the Spirit" (verse 4:14), and being "anointed" by the Spirit (verse 4:18). Do you think the experience of the Spirit available to Jesus was different than what is available to you? Why or why not?



3. As Jesus begins this ministry empowered by the Holy Spirit, Luke makes sure we know that opposition to Jesus has also begun. Why is that important for us to know? What strikes you as significant about the opposition to Jesus?



4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

GO DEEPER

Luke 4:17-21.

In the synagogue, Jesus reads from Isaiah 61:1-2a. This passage, for the Jewish people was a well-known messianic passage. In your bible, go back and read Isaiah 61:1-7. Luke is careful to point out where Jesus stopped reading. Why do you think Jesus stopped reading when he did? Why would he not talk about the “day of vengeance” of our God and “comfort all who mourn?”

WE *(EK 2)*

AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 3

Luke 4:30 - 8:56

DAY 1 Luke 4:30-5:16

1. What does Luke report in verse 4:32 and again in verses 4:36-37 about Jesus' teaching and message? What do you think those hearing and seeing Jesus were sensing?



2. Luke has continually associated Jesus with the Holy Spirit. Now abruptly, other spirits are introduced and will be continually present in the next few chapters. What do you think Luke wants his readers to see and learn about Jesus and His kingdom through this?



3. What do you think motivated Peter to say what he did to Jesus in response to the great catch of fish (verse 5:8)? Again we see Jesus recognize the fear in His followers (verses 5:8-10). What unhealthy fears do you have in terms of what God might want to do in and through you?



4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 2 Luke 5:17-6:11

1. Luke reports that a man is healed through the faith of his friends. How do you think God might want you to grow as a friend so that you impact the lives of your friends in a deeper way?

2. What do you like about Jesus' choice of Levi to be an apostle? What is significant to you about His response to the criticism that He was a friend to sinners? How can you mimic Jesus in this?

3. Through these chapters Jesus is facing much human opposition. As Luke reports this opposition, are there some things about unbelief that surprise you? Do you think it resulted from open-mindedness and intellectual honesty?




4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 3 Luke 6:12-49

1. Based on how Jesus prayed as He made critical people decisions, how would you like to change your practice of prayer? Do you think he goofed in choosing Judas? What does this tell you about decisions you believe God is leading you to make?

2. Jesus makes a whole series of profound statements as He teaches the crowd (verses 6:20-49). Pick one of these teachings and write down what you think it means and how you think God wants you to change.



3. What is the difference between the two men in verses 6:46-49? What do you think the point of the story is—what is Jesus trying to get the crowd to do? Is there a specific teaching of Jesus you need to act on to get your life on more solid ground?


4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 4 Luke 7:1-52

1. Why would the story of the centurion be so important on a personal level to Luke and to the friend he is composing this account for, Theophilus? What message do you think Jesus was sending about His kingdom?



2. In verses 7:18-23 Luke reports the question John asks of Jesus from his prison cell. John had openly endorsed Jesus as the Christ. What do you think happened to John that now made him wonder if Jesus was the Christ?



3. Jesus compares his ministry to that of John (verses 7:31-35). What are some ways in which their approaches to ministry were different? Do you see some of the same contrasts today in the approaches of different ministries? Which approach is most like yours?

4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 5 Luke 8:1-56

1. In verses 8:1-3 Luke names some women who traveled with Jesus. Why do you think this was important for Theophilus to know? What are some of the things you notice about his comments on these individuals?

2. Jesus tells a story to illustrate that there are very different responses among people to the truth. In verse 8:18 He issues a warning. What is He warning against? According to this warning, what is the key to gaining more wisdom from God?

3. Jesus demonstrates His power over nature (verses 8:22-25). The disciples are amazed and fearful. More power stories are told, each with a fearful response (verses 8:37, 47). Why does Luke report so much fear in connection with Jesus? What are some important factors in overcoming our unhealthy fears of Jesus and spiritual things?



4. Jesus gives the man He freed from demonic control some important instructions (verse 8:39). What kinds of God-stories do people need to hear from us today? What kinds of approaches to impacting people spiritually generally fail?

5. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

GO DEEPER

Luke 8:1-3.

Notice the context of this passage going all the way back to 7:11. Why would Luke put three stories together about women? As you read, you will notice that Luke is careful to show the existence of women disciples. Why would he do this?

WE *(EK 3)*

SEPTEMBER 4 - SEPTEMBER 10


Luke 9:1 - 11:54

DAY 1 Luke 9:1-50

1. Jesus empowers the 12 apostles to share in His work of proclaiming and demonstrating the kingdom of God. What are some things they learned about ministry in the feeding of the 5,000?



2. Jesus also begins to give them knowledge of what was ahead and some principles He was calling them to live by (verses 9:23-26). What do you think your “cross” is that you must take up daily? What is Jesus talking about in verse 9:24—saving your life?



3. To minister well, the 12 apostles had to get over considerable self-centeredness (verses 46-56). What is some “junk” you observe in them in these verses? What things has God done in your life to wean you from these drives?


4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 2 Luke 9:51-10:24

1. What does verse 9:51 tell you about the rest of what you will read in Luke's book? Why do you think so many chapters were given to this period of Jesus' life?

2. Jesus had to deal with excuses people make when it comes to following Him (verses 9:57-62). How can we grow so we know when we're making excuses to not follow Jesus? Furthermore, how can we grow to a point where we don't allow ourselves to do so? How can we grow in perseverance so as not to be quitters?





3. After recording Jesus' comments on excuses, Luke tells us about Jesus empowering 72 more people to share in His work. What are some of the good things they would experience? What were some of the hard things?


4. Reflect on Jesus' comments to these 72 when they return from ministering (verses 10:17-24). They are wise words for us! What should be our perspective as we do ministry ourselves?

5. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 3 Luke 10:25-42

1. What is the context of this passage?

2. Why did Luke put this story in his gospel? How does it contribute to his overall message?



3. How can you imitate Jesus in light of this passage?


4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 4 Luke 11:1-26

1. What is the request the disciples make that verses 11:1-13 address? What is the point of the short prayer of verses 11:2-4? Make some observations about prayer and praying from verses 11:2-13.

2. Luke saw the need to tell many stories about Jesus casting out demons. Why do you think this was important? What do you believe about demons in our world today?





3. The power of Jesus over demons had to be explained. This was done in various ways. Jesus explains here how He was able to do it. What is comforting about what He says? What warnings are critical for us and why?

4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 5 Luke 11:27-54

1. A woman shouts out something and Jesus responds to it. Why is this small moment in Jesus' life so significant that Luke felt led to include it in his account?

2. In verses 11:29-36 Jesus speaks to the crowd about how they were processing what they were seeing and hearing in Him. From what He says, make some observations about right turns and wrong turns we can make in evaluating Jesus and other faith matters.

3. Read verses 11:38-54. Why do you think Jesus was okay with creating hostility with this group of people? How should Luke's account of Jesus' dialog with the Pharisees shape our view of Jesus? How should it shape our view of Christianity?



4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

GO DEEPER

Luke 9

Luke Chapter 9 has been known as the “hinge chapter” because there is a shift in tone and content between Chapters 1-8 and 10-24. What verses/passages clue you in on this shift? How does this contribute to your understanding of Chapters 10-24? Why would Jesus give his call to discipleship at this point in his ministry? How does this impact your own journey of discipleship with Jesus?

WE *(EK 4)*


SEPTEMBER 11 - SEPTEMBER 17

Luke 12:1 - 15:32

DAY 1 Luke 12:1-34

1. In verses 12:1-12 Jesus gives principles to guide the listeners who are at a spiritual crossroads. What important decisions do we have to make to keep ourselves from a pseudo-spirituality? Identify some human spiritual tendencies we must recognize in ourselves.

2. Jesus uses an interruption to teach about greed (verses 12:13-21). What are some very profound points He makes about wealth that should shape our life pursuits? Since life does NOT consist of things, what DOES it consist of?




3. Some great “Christian values” are given in verses 12:22-34. List as many as you can. Some great advice is given on life as well. Do you believe these things? What is some of this advice the Holy Spirit is convicting you to implement today?

4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 2 Luke 12:35-59

1. What sorts of things do you think Jesus had in mind when He taught us to be “ready” and to be “dressed for action”? What do you think He was referring to in talking about “beating the male and female slaves” and “getting drunk?”

2. In verses 12:49-53 Jesus talks about division. Is division among people always wrong? When is it wrong and when is it legitimate?



3. We should be people who understand the times. What are some things we need to understand about our times? As you look at our times, what kind of people does God want and need us to be so that His work moves forward?


4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 3 Luke 13:1-35

1. In Chapter 13 Jesus gives insights regarding human tendencies and what God's Kingdom becomes under our care. In verses 13:1-5 we see our tendency to single out just SOME people as sinners. What does Jesus make clear about ALL people? What does it mean to repent? Are we ever done repenting?

2. In verses 13:10-17 Luke tells a story that demonstrates our tendency toward hypocrisy. What kinds of contradictions are present in your life that God wants to transform? What do Jesus' statements in verses 13:18-21 have to do with this?





3. As you look over this chapter what were some of the mistakes the Israelites had made that caused Israel to be such a contradiction? Which ones do you identify with? What clues are there in the text about how to deal with such messes as they develop?


4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 4 Luke 14:1-35

1. As you read verses 14:7-11, what great human need does Jesus want us to rule wisely? If Jesus was to address this issue today, what kinds of things might He point out in American culture that we do to be honored?

2. In verses 14:16-24 Jesus tells a story meant to teach about participating in the kingdom of God when it becomes an earthly kingdom. What are some of the points He is trying to get across? If that kingdom is such a blessing, why do you think more don't choose it? What is significant about the folks in the story who do attend the banquet?






3. Read verses 34-35. What is Jesus talking about here? What are some things that make Christians who they are? (hint: read verses 14:25-33).

4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 5 Luke 15:1-32

1. In verses 15:1-7 Jesus talks once again about why He befriends sinners. How have you been able to do this? Is there a person in your life who is not a Christian whom you could befriend? What are some things good friends do?

2. Jesus tells a lengthy story about a wayward son. What are some things you learn about God through this story? What are some of these things that are critical for others to understand about God?



3. What lessons can you draw from each of the three characters in this story? How are these important in terms of ruling yourself well?

4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

WE *(EK 5)*

SEPTEMBER 18 - SEPTEMBER 24


Luke 16:1 - 19:27

DAY 1 Luke 16:1-31

1. Jesus makes some great statements about money in verses 16:10-13. List five important things about money from what Jesus says here. How godly have you been in terms of your view of money? What is true wealth?



2. Jesus speaks to those who ridicule Him, leading off with the statement that they justify themselves before men. How do you know when you're doing this? What are some things Jesus says in verses 16:15-18 that should stop us in our tracks when we do this?



3. In verses 16:19-31 Jesus tells a story to those scoffing at Him from the world beyond the grave. What do you think about the conclusion the story takes us to in verses 16:27-31? What is the purpose of this story? How did it prove true in the lives of the hearers?

4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 2 Luke 17:1-19

1. The scoffers in the previous chapter drew many away from faith in Jesus. Jesus warns His disciples against destroying faith in others. What are some things in us that destroy the faith of others? What things in your life do you need to rule really well to avoid this?

2. Why is the apostle's request in verse five such a good one in view of the warnings of Jesus Luke has recorded? What does the little story Jesus tells have to do with our faith increasing? (Hint: there is a link between being faithful and greater faith)

3. In verses 17:11-19 Jesus heals 10 men. What do you think Jesus' point is in stating the percentage of those who gave thanks? What could you start doing differently as far as being thankful to God? How about to significant people in your life?




4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 3 Luke 17:20-18:17

1. What is the significance of Jesus' statement that "the kingdom of God is in the midst of you?" (verse 17:21). What are some important things that should have made the hearers ponder? Will the kingdom of God always be in that form? How do you know?



2. Jesus warns His disciples about how they would need to behave very soon when He was taken from them (verses 17:22-37). What are some of the dangers He mentions? What do Jesus' words say about the kind of people He needs us to be in today's world?




3. The parable in verses 18:9-14 talks about two very different spiritual actions. Look closely at the descriptions. What are some of the differences in actions? What about attitudes? What are some situations that bring out arrogance in you that you have to then confess?

4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 4 Luke 18:18-43

1. What is the context of this passage?
2. Why did Luke put this story in his gospel? How does it contribute to his overall message?



3. How can you imitate Jesus in light of this passage?

4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 5 Luke 19:1-27

1. Once again Luke tells us a story that shows Jesus being an intentional friend of sinners. How has seeing this over the past few weeks changed your mindset? Have you reached out to anyone yet to mimic Jesus in this way?

2. Verse 19:10 reports Jesus' statement of a significant part of His life mission. Make two lists: one that lists how we can take part in seeking the lost, and a second one of things that distract us so that we get disconnected from this part of sharing His mission.

3. The story in verses 19:11-27 illustrates what “kingdom business” looks like now, and how that shapes what it will look like later for us. There are many important take-aways from this story; what are some you are pondering?



4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

GO DEEPER

Luke 18:1-8.

Normally, people read this passage and see the widow as an example for us in prayer. The thought goes like this: “if we ask long enough, God will eventually ‘give in’ and grant your request.” The problem with this understanding is that if the widow corresponds to us, then does the “unjust judge” correspond to God? Is God an unjust judge? Is it really the point of this parable that we should keep nagging God? What is the point of this parable? The key verses for the correct understanding of this passage are verse 1 and 8. It’s helpful to read this parable with those verses as your guide.

WE *(EK 6)*

SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 1

Luke 19:28 - 24:53


DAY 1 Luke 19:28-20:47

1. This is the story of God's presentation of His chosen King of Creation in Jerusalem (verses 19:28-44). What do you see in the details of the story that say something profound about God and Jesus?



2. This is the beginning of the last week of Jesus' life. What do you notice about Jesus' style with respect to those who oppose Him? What do you notice about their style in their opposition to Him?






3. Jesus condemns the Scribes (verses 20:45-47). His rebuke is public, but addressed to His disciples. What do all of us have in common with the Scribes that we need to guard ourselves against? Why might Jesus have felt the need to warn His disciples in this way?

4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 2 Luke 21:1-38

1. Read verses 21:1-4. Do you agree or disagree with this statement about giving: "It's not the size of the gift, but the size of the sacrifice that is significant." Why?

2. Verses 21:5-28 have to do with signs of the destruction of Jerusalem and with the hope of His return to reign. What kinds of things were NOT signs of either? What was the sign of the destruction of Jerusalem? What were the signs of His coming?




3. We can watch for these signs, but the real thing we have to do is watch ourselves (verses 21:34-36). When it comes to your growth in Christ, what tends to weigh you down and keep you from rising? What kind of people does Yahweh need?

4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 3 Luke 22:1-71

1. In verses 22:24-27 a dispute breaks out among the disciples. Why do you think they thought this dispute was important enough to report to generations who followed? How does their weakness in these things minister to you and challenge you?

2. Jesus prays earnestly as He is about to endure His suffering for us. How does His prayer minister to you? What does it teach you about prayer itself? How is God challenging you regarding prayer as you read these verses?




3. Peter's denial is reported by Luke, whom we believe used Peter as his primary source in writing this book. What do you think Luke and Peter were trying to accomplish by reporting this? How has your sense of value to the kingdom been affirmed by this report?

4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 4 Luke 23:1-56

1. As you read the account of Jesus' trial, what are some of the details reported that make you admire God's patience with humanity?

2. Jesus gives a prophecy to some who were mourning Him (verses 23:27-31). It is based on Deuteronomy 28:15-68. What kinds of things was Jesus seeing ahead? What are some sobering truths taught through Israel's story?



3. Luke reports the words of the two criminals (verses 23:39-43). What is the hope that is conveyed through the story of the repentant one? What are some situations you might encounter where people need to hear this story?

4. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

DAY 5 Luke 24:1-53

1. What are some reasons why the resurrection is such an important event in Christianity? What does it say about Jesus? If it did not happen, should it be said that He was a great man or teacher?

2. Luke tells the captivating story of the two men on the road to Emmaus, and then of another of Jesus' appearances. What are some parts of these stories that you love to hear? What are some things about Jesus' resurrected body that intrigue you?

3. Jesus' words in verses 24:25-27 and 24:44-45 emphasize the importance of understanding the Old Testament. How well do you understand the Old Testament? What is so important about this?



4. What is the “promise of the Father” that Jesus talks about in verse 24:49? What was so important about waiting for that promise?



5. What is something you learned or re-learned in these verses? In what situation might this lesson be helpful and important?

In-depth Themes from Luke

1. **The Holy Spirit**—He is mentioned 12 times in chapters 1-4:18 of Luke (see verses 1:15, 17, 35, 41, 67, 80; 2:25-26; 3:16, 22; 4:1, 14, 18). The book closes with Jesus stating the coming promise of the Father—the coming of the Holy Spirit to indwell all believers. In between, there are many accounts of evil spiritual beings being subjected to the work of the Holy Spirit through Jesus.

Luke attributes the following to the work of the Holy Spirit;

- a. The extra-ordinary life of John the Baptist (verses 1:15, 80).
- b. The conception of Jesus—the child produced by the Holy Spirit (verse 1:35).
- c. Various prophetic messages affirming Jesus' and John's role in Yahweh's plan (verses 1:41-45, 57-79; 2:25-26).
- e. The enabler of Jesus and the proof of His identity (verses 3:22; 4:1, 14, 18).
- f. The source of Jesus' joy (verse 10:21).
- g. The source to all of a defense of the gospel (verse 12:12).
- h. The object with respect to the unpardonable sin (verse 12:10).

Luke says it is this very Spirit that is given by Jesus to all who believe in Him (verses 3:16; 11:13; 24:49).

Summary: The Holy Spirit produced in Mary the man-child Jesus. He came upon Jesus enabling Him for all he did. He would come upon and enable His followers to help them represent Jesus, spread and defend the gospel.

2. **Opposition to Jesus**—it is reported immediately as His ministry begins. There is the record of Satan's temptation in Luke 4:1-14. Luke begins this account with

statements that Jesus was “full of the Spirit” and “led of the Spirit” (verse 4:1). He ends it with Jesus returned “in the power of the Spirit to Galilee” (verse 4:14). After this, Luke reports the rejection of Jesus by those in His hometown. From that point on there are frequent reports of human opposition to Jesus throughout Luke’s account. It all reminds us that opposition always surfaces as God’s King and His kingdom move among fallen people in this fallen world.

3. **“Fear” and “Amazement”**—Luke reports these as the reactions of those who were key players in the events surrounding the births of John and Jesus (verses 1:65, 74, 2:9, 18, 33, 37-38). They also appear in the frequent reactions of both believers and unbelievers to the spiritual and physical powers displayed by Jesus (verses 2:47; 4:32, 36; 5:9-10, 26; 7:16; 8:25, 37, 50, 56; 9:34, 43, 45; 11:14; 20:26; 24:22, 41). In the midst of these statements Luke records statements relating to the “fear of man” (verses 12:4-9; 20:1-6, 20:19, 22:2) and the important statement of the repentant thief on the cross regarding the fear of God (verse 23:40). Finally, Luke reports Jesus dealing with the disciples’ fear as He appeared to them after His resurrection (verses 24:37-40, they thought they were seeing a spirit). To Luke, fear seems to be an important human emotion.

4. **The Kingdom of God**—this is repeatedly referenced by Luke (verses 1:33; 4:43; 6:20; 7:28; 8:1, 10; 9:2, 11, 27, 60, 62; 10:9, 11; 11:2, 20, 13:18, 20, 28-29; 14:15, 16:16; 17:20-21; 18:16, 24, 29; 19:11, 15; 21:31; 22:16, 18, 29; 23:42, 51). The people were expecting it, they were talking about it and Jesus was proclaiming it and teaching about it. Jesus talks about the Kingdom’s present form, its future form, what matters in view of its certainty, and who will be rewarded in it. He talks about what the Kingdom requires of any who would experience it and what doing Kingdom business involves. As its King, He continually models the character that is its goal and He demonstrates clearly His power to subjugate evil.

5. Jesus Fulfilled Old Testament Projections of Christ

—It is very apparent that Luke wants Theophilus to be convinced of this (verses 3:4-6; 4:21; 9:22, 44; 11:30; 17:22; 18:31; 21:22, 24; 22:16, 22, 37; 24:7, 27, 32, 44-45).

6. All Nations Blessed—Luke indicates that God’s salvation extended to all nations. There are numerous veiled references to this from the very beginning of Jesus’ public ministry (see verses 4:24-27; other “hints” at this occur at verses 10:13-15, 29-37; 11:29-32; 13:6-9, 14:15-24; 16:19-31; 17:11-18; 19:11-27; 41-44). Then there are three more definitive statements scattered through the account (verses 13:22-30; 20:9-19; 21:20-24). Finally, there is a very definitive one made by Jesus at the close of Luke’s account (verses 24:44-47).

SURVEY

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