

Counting the Cost

Jesus never tried to trick people into following Him. On the contrary, He was very open about the costs involved in being His disciple. Jesus wanted people to listen to His message and obey the Father's will, but He was clear that doing so would require effort, diligence, and even sacrifice. The cost of following Him and the value of His kingdom is a prominent feature during Jesus' final trip to Jerusalem. On multiple occasions He specifically teaches on the costs of discipleship (9:23-27, 57-62 & 14:25-33). He also teaches on the importance of valuing the kingdom above all else. He reminds Martha that Mary had chosen "the good portion" which was the one necessary thing (10:38-42). He taught that men should be "rich toward God" (12:21), not anxious about physical things (12:22-34), to be prepared for hatred (12:49-53), and the value of recovering a lost soul (15). Following Jesus will cost a great deal, but will bring us the greatest value we can imagine. Understanding the cost of following Jesus is paramount to spiritual success, and being able to pay such cost rests upon our ability to determine what is truly and eternally valuable!



Questions:

- Why did a Samaritan village not receive Jesus? _____
- Where did Jesus send the 70 to? _____
- Summarize Jesus' criticism of the Pharisees and Lawyers: _____

- What is the "leaven of the Pharisees"? _____
- How many were killed when a tower in Siloam fell on them? _____
- How much must one be willing to forsake in order to be a disciple of Jesus? _____
- Luke 15 contains the parables of the lost _____, the lost _____, and the lost _____.
- When the rich man asked for someone to be sent to his brothers, Abraham said, "If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead." Do you think that Jesus is just using exaggeration? Why or why not? Can you think of some Scriptural examples that help us see the truth of Jesus' statement? _____

"That You May Grow Thereby..."

A weekly Bible reading plan



Luke 9-16

Heading to Jerusalem

Overview

In Luke 9, we come to some important turning points in Jesus' ministry. As His Galilean ministry draws to a close, we see the incredible transfiguration scene (9:28-36), and shortly after that we are told, "When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem" (9:51). This would be Jesus' final trip to Jerusalem—He was heading there to be crucified. Much happens on the way. In fact, He doesn't arrive in Jerusalem until Luke 19:28. Thus, a great portion of Luke's gospel is dedicated to this final trip from Galilee to Jerusalem. In this section, we see mounting tension between Jesus and His adversaries, as the line between those who believe in Him and those who reject Him becomes clearer and clearer. This section contains a great deal of Jesus' teaching. Some of His teaching is directed at warning opponents like the Pharisees and lawyers (11:37-52). Several of the Lord's parables are recorded in this section, along with specific teaching on things such as prayer, watchfulness, and the cost of discipleship.

Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: Luke 9
Tuesday: Luke 10-11
Wednesday: Luke 12
Thursday: Luke 13-14
Friday: Luke 15-16



Women in Luke's Gospel

Societies and cultures always have prejudices, but Jesus never subscribed to such things. Luke's gospel

demonstrates this very clearly. One way Luke demonstrates this is through a special focus on various women involved in the life and ministry of Jesus. Consider the lessons to be learned from these unique scenes in Luke:

- Elizabeth* (Lk. 1)
- Mary [Jesus' Mother]* (Lk. 1 & 2)
- Anna the Prophetess* (2:36-38)
- Widow of Nain* (7:11-15)
- Sinful Woman who Anoints Jesus' Feet* (7:36-49)
- Women who Accompanied Jesus* (8:1-3)
- Mary & Martha* (10:38-42)
- Woman who Speaks as Christ Teaches* (11:27-28)
- Crippled Woman* (13:10-13)
- Women Following at Golgotha* (23:27-28)

PARABLES

As noted when reading the other gospels, one of Jesus' favorite methods of teaching was through the use of parables. Depending on how one defines a parable, there are between 40 and 65 parables of Jesus in the synoptic gospels! Luke contains both the largest number of parables, and the largest number of unique parables. Below are some parables found only in Luke's gospel:

- The Two Debtors* (7:40-47)
- The Good Samaritan* (10:25-37)
- The Friend who Came at Midnight* (11:5-8)
- The Rich Fool* (12:13-21)
- The Faithful & Evil Servants* (12:35-48)
- The Barren Fig Tree* (13:6-9)
- The Unfinished Tower* (14:25-34)
- The Lost Coin* (15:8-10)
- The Lost Son* (15:11-32)
- The Unjust Steward* (16:1-13)
- The Condescending Master* (17:7-10)
- The Persistent Widow* (18:1-8)
- The Pharisee and the Tax Collector* (18:9-14)
- The Minas* (19:11-27)

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