

Luke 13-24

**FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SCRIPTURE STUDY CLASS
SPRING 2024**

Introduction

There are many misconceptions about Jesus, and here he is revealed as one with authority over everything that the physical and the nonphysical world can produce. He is seen as the Jesus we can trust with every aspect of our lives, as Messiah, teacher, and Son of Man giving his life for his people.

Our hope and prayer are that this class will provide you with a better knowledge of the Bible and a deeper love for Christ and his people. Please attempt to answer the week's questions before the class. Being prepared will allow you and others to participate more effectively in the discussions, bringing everyone to a greater level of understanding of God's word and a deepened fellowship.

Commentary

The optional commentary we will use is *Luke (Tyndale New Testament Commentaries)* by Leon Morris.

Additional Resource for Further Study

Luke 14–24: On the Road to Jerusalem (Focus on the Bible) by Dale Ralph Davis

Luke (Teach the Text Commentary Series) Part of: Teach the Text Commentary (21 books) by R. T. France

Free Online Resources

The Gospel according to Luke Third Mill Ministries
www.thirdmill.org/seminary/lesson.asp/vid/109

Peter G. Bolt Luke (TGC Commentary)
www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/luke/

Recommendations for Table Discussion

There will be some who are more eager to share around the table than others. Please be respectful and kind as the discussion unfolds, recognizing there are varying levels of biblical proficiency and levels of comfort in sharing. Your table hosts are wonderful brothers and sisters who are there to love and support you and will do their best to foster a safe, welcoming environment that is profitable and edifying for everyone present.

Thank you for spending the time to take this class and for contributing to the fellowship and mutual learning around your table. Our hope is that the effort you put into this class will be rewarded many times over in your daily Christian walk and in the years to come.

Schedule—Scripture Study
Luke 14-24—Spring, 2024

Week	Date	Scripture
1	7-Jan	Luke 13
2	14-Jan	Luke 14
3	21-Jan	Luke 15
4	28-Jan	Luke 16
5	4-Feb	Luke 17
6	11-Feb	Luke 18
7	18-Feb	Luke 19
8	25-Feb	Luke 20
9	3-Mar	Luke 21
10	10-Mar	Luke 22
11	17-Mar	Luke 23
12	24-Mar	Luke 24

Luke 13:1-5	Repent or Perish
Luke 13:6-9	The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree
Luke 13:10-17	Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman
Luke 13:18-19	The Parable of the Mustard Seed
Luke 13:20-21	The Parable of the Yeast
Luke 13:22-30	The Narrow Door
Luke 13:31-35	The Lament over Jerusalem

1. Does suffering indicate a mark of God's displeasure with or judgment against the person or persons who experience it (vs. 1-5)? Always? Sometimes? How are we to think of suffering in our lives and in the lives of others? What are we to do when counseling ourselves or others during suffering? And while we're at it, what are we *not* to do? (See Job 22:5-16; John 9:2; Acts 28:4.)
2. In verses 3 and again in 5, Jesus says that "unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." What exactly is repentance? Who must repent? How is the call to repentance part of the good news of the gospel? (See Luke 24:47; Mat. 3:2; Acts 2:38-40.)

3. What do you think Jesus' purpose is in telling the parable of the fig tree (vs. 6-9)? What is the "fruit" that God is looking for in the lives of his people? What do you do when you become anxious that your life is marked by insufficient fruitfulness? (Hint: Jesus!)

4. What do we learn about the nature of the kingdom of God from the two parables in verses 18-21? What do you think it means when Jesus pictures the kingdom first as a mustard seed growing into a tree, then as leaven working through the whole dough? Compare Dan. 2:35, 44-45; and Eph. 1:22-23. What is the kingdom of God like, in your own words?

5. What do you think Jesus means by calling us to enter the kingdom by the narrow door (vs. 23-24)? And what does he mean when he says that many will seek to enter and will not be able? Many Christians find Jesus' words here frightening, when he says to those who will seek to enter, "I do not know where you come from." But what is your assurance – yes, assurance! – and that you are indeed a child of God and will indeed inherit eternal life?

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Luke 14:1-6	Jesus Heals the Man with Dropsy
Luke 14:7-14	Humility and Hospitality
Luke 14:15-24	The Parable of the Great Dinner
Luke 14:25-33	The Cost of Discipleship
Luke 14:34-35	About Salt

1. What point is Jesus making when he makes his defense for healing the man on the Sabbath (vs. 5). Why does he liken his healing of the man with dropsy to pulling one's son out of a pit? Technically, the man's life wasn't in danger! Jesus could have waited one more day—unlike the example of true urgency where one's son has fallen into a pit. How would Jesus answer this challenge? (See Luke 13:15-16). How might we understand and apply these principles for our life today?
2. What is the significance of Jesus' parable about not choosing the place of honor at a feast (vs. 7-11), and specifically, what does it mean to say that "everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (vs. 11)? What do you think is the connection between cultivating humility and practicing our faith?

3. In the parable of the great dinner (vs. 15-24), Jesus speaks of a man who gives a great banquet to which those invited all decline the invitation for various reasons; the man then instructs his servants to go into the streets and later into the highways to find guests who *will* accept the invitation. There is a warning here. What is it? (See vs. 24.) What might this parable teach us about the mission of the church today?

4. What does Jesus mean when he says that “whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple” (vs. 27)? How are we to “count the cost” of discipleship (vs. 28)?

5. “Salt is good,” Jesus says in vs. 34, “but if it has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?” What do you think he is teaching here? What does it mean to say that you, as disciples of Jesus, are “the salt of the earth” (Matt. 5:13). What are some important characteristics about salt that might apply to the church’s function in the world, and what is Jesus’ warning?

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Luke 15:1-7	The Parable of the Lost Sheep
Luke 15:8-10	The Parable of the Lost Coin
Luke 15:11-32	The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother

1. The Pharisees are grumbling because Jesus “receives sinners and eats with them” (vs. 2). Why do you think Jesus responds to them with these three parables concerning things that had been lost and were then found?
2. What happens to sheep that wander from the fold? What would you say to the one who tells you that they believe in Jesus but that they don’t need to be a part of the church?

3. Why will there be “more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance” (vs. 7)? Does this seem fair? What is the weakness of this line of thinking that begins to question the fairness of God in seeking the lost? (Hint: Is your hope of heaven a matter of God’s enforcing his justice or of God’s extending his grace?)

4. “Just so,” Jesus says, “I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” What are angels and who are the angels of God? (See Gen. 19:1, 12-13; Gen. 28:10-12; Ps. 78:49-50; Ps. 103:20; Matt. 4:6, 11; Matt. 13:38-50; Matt. 24:31, 36.) Consider that the angels of God rejoiced (or will still rejoice!) over your being found. Who’s doing the seeking? Who is it that is found? How did your Savior find you?

5. The parable of the prodigal son and the elder brother (vs. 11-32) may well be the most famous of Jesus’ parables. What group of people does the prodigal son represent? And the elder son? What do you make of the elder son’s frustration? What is the problem with the elder son’s outlook? And finally, who does the father in the parable represent, and what do his actions teach us about the character of our Father in heaven?

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Luke 16:1	The Parable of the Dishonest Manager
Luke 16:14	The Law and the Kingdom of God
Luke 16:19	The Rich Man and Lazarus

1. In the parable of the dishonest manager (vs. 1-13), Jesus tells of a manager faced with losing his job because of his wastefulness, and afraid because he can do nothing else. What is the plan that he comes up with (vs. 4-6)? What is the master's response to the manager's shrewdness (vs. 8)?
2. What do you think Jesus means when he declares that "the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light"? What do you think this means? (See also Matt. 10:16.) In what ways can you imagine we ought to be shrewd like the world, and in what ways ought we NOT like the world?

3. In verses 10 and 12, Jesus says that “one who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much,” and “if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own?” What does he mean here? (See Luke 19:17; Matt. 25:21; Heb. 3:2.) What opportunities has God given you today to be faithful to Christ as your true master?
4. In verses 16-18, Jesus speaks to the nature of the law. What does he mean when he says that “it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void.” In what ways are we free from the law? And in what ways are we still bound to it?
5. What is the point of Jesus’ parable of Lazarus and the rich man (vs. 19-31)? What is the significance of the idea that if they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced if someone should rise from the dead? How are we to avoid the fate of the rich man?

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Luke 17:1	Some Sayings of Jesus
Luke 17:11	Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers
Luke 17:20	The Coming of the Kingdom

1. “Temptations to sin are sure to come,” Jesus says in verse 1, “but woe to the one through whom they come!” What is his point here? What’s the difference between being tempted to sin and tempting others to sin? Is it a sin to be tempted? When does it become sin? (See Matt. 18:5-7; Ps. 1:1-2; Rom. 14:13; and Rom. 16:17.)
2. In verse 4, Jesus says that if your brother “sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.” How do you deal with the command that we forgive others in your life? Surely, it’s difficult to forgive someone who keeps sinning against you, even if the person keeps repenting? How do you understand and apply Jesus’ call that we forgive those who trespass against us?

3. "If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." (vs. 6) What is faith (see Heb. 11:1)? What is the object of our faith? What do you think Jesus means here? Describe an occasion when you've seen the power of faith operative in your life and in the lives of others?

4. "Were not ten cleansed?" Jesus asked in verse 17. "Where are the nine?" How can it be that these nine who were healed of leprosy did not return to Jesus? Have you witnessed instances of this, where people have been exposed to the power of God in such manner as to have no excuse, but then fail to believe? How did the faith of the one who returned make him well (vs. 19). How does our faith make us well?

5. What does Jesus mean when he says that "the kingdom of God is in the midst of you" (vs. 21). And what is his point in verse 24, when he says that "as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day"? Is the kingdom of God here already or not yet come? (Hint: yes!) How so? Finally, how are we to prepare for Jesus' return if it will not be observed by signs (vs. 20)? How does the fact that Jesus is coming again to judge the earth impact your life?

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Luke 18:1	The Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge
Luke 18:9	The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector
Luke 18:15	Jesus Blesses Little Children
Luke 18:18	The Rich Ruler
Luke 18:31	A Third Time Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection
Luke 18:35	Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar Near Jericho

1. Luke tells us the intent of Jesus' parable of the widow and the unjust judge, that we "ought always to pray and not lose heart" (vs. 1). What do you think is the significance of Jesus' using the example of an unjust judge in his parable? What is the meaning of the parable in your own words? How is persistence to be a mark of our prayer life? Are you persistent in prayer? Do you always pray and not lose heart? What might cause you to lose heart in prayer?
2. In verses 9-14, Jesus tells the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. Why is it the tax collector (a sinner!) who is justified rather than the Pharisee? What does it mean to be justified? How are we justified (see Rom. 3:20, 28; Rom. 5:1; Gal. 2:16)? How can you be sure that you are justified?

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Luke 19:1	Jesus and Zacchaeus
Luke 19:11	The Parable of the Ten Pounds
Luke 19:28	Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
Luke 19:41	Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem
Luke 19:45	Jesus Cleanses the Temple

1. In verses 1-10, we read of Jesus' interaction with Zaccheus, the tax collector. Describe the scene. What might be the significance of Zaccheus' joy in seeing Jesus? Compare the complaint of those observing these things (vs. 7) and Jesus' answer to them (vs. 10). Then compare these with Jesus' earlier answers to similar complaints, in Luke 5:30-32; Luke 7:39, 47; and Luke 15:2, 7, 10. What do we learn about Jesus' character and mission in these verses?
2. Compare Zaccheus' joy – where he is unafraid of seeming undignified in climbing up a tree to see Jesus – to that of the prodigal son's father, who was also unafraid of seeming undignified in running to greet his son (Luke 15:20). What does this tell us about the joy of the kingdom? Why this joy? Do you rejoice in the salvation of the lost?

3. What does Jesus mean in verse 9 when he says of Zaccheus that “today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.” Who are the sons of Abraham (see Luke 3:9; Gal. 3:7)?
4. What point is Jesus’ making with the parable of the ten pounds (vs. 11-27)? What is the significance of Jesus’ giving ten minas to each of his servants and then tracking the different outcomes? Why was Jesus angry with the servant who hid the minas rather than depositing them? What does this mean for us as followers of Jesus today?
5. Jesus enters Jerusalem, the entire crowd begins rejoicing and praising God, proclaiming Jesus as “the King who comes in the name of the Lord.” What was the import of the crowd’s celebration that first Palm Sunday? Why were the Pharisees upset? (Extra credit: think about the significance of palms in Scripture. What does the waving of palms signify? See Ex. 15:27; 1 Kings 6:29, 31-32, 35; Lev. 23:29-40; Rev. 7:9-10! Praise the Lord!)

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CHAPTER 20

FEBRUARY 25, 2024

Luke 20:1	The Authority of Jesus Questioned
Luke 20:9	The Parable of the Wicked Tenants
Luke 20:20	The Question about Paying Taxes
Luke 20:27	The Question about the Resurrection
Luke 20:41	The Question about David's Son
Luke 20:45	Jesus Denounces the Scribes

1. Jesus answers the chief priests' question with another question (vs. 3-4). What is the significance of his asking about John here? (See John 1:15, 29, 32; John 5:33-35.) If John was indeed a prophet (and he was), what would that mean about the Pharisees' opposition to Jesus?
2. What is the point of the parable of the wicked tenants (vs. 9-16)? How does it shed light on verses 1-8? What is the warning it contains, and what is the warning – and also the comfort – for the church today (vs. 17-18)?
3. Jesus says that we are to “render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (vs. 25). What is to be rendered to Caesar? What is to be rendered to God? (See Gen. 1:26-28, and compare with Luke 20:24; see also 1 Cor. 6:19-20.) What happens when the claims of Caesar conflict with those of God (see Acts 5:29)?

4. What do you think is the point of the interaction between Jesus and the Sadducees in verses 27-40? What does he mean by saying that God is the “God not of the dead, but of the living.” How does this give you hope, and how does this hope impact your life? (Also: will there be marriage in heaven (vs. 27-40)? Why is there no need for marriage in heaven? How do you feel about this?)

5. Jesus quotes from Psalm 110, basically asking the following question: When David writes, “The LORD says to my Lord,” who is David’s Lord (“my Lord”)? How does this teaching give us confidence in the one in whom we believe? Why is it important that Jesus is the Son of David?

6. Extra credit: Who do you think the “beloved son” (vs. 13) represents in the parable of the wicked tenants? What is ironic about verse 14? How through a son’s death do we have an eternal inheritance?

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CHAPTER 21

MARCH 3, 2024

Luke 21:1

The Widow's Offering

Luke 21:5

The Destruction of the Temple Foretold

Luke 21:20

The Destruction of Jerusalem Foretold

Luke 21:25

The Coming of the Son of Man

Luke 21:29

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

Luke 21:34

Exhortation to Watch

1. In verses 1-4, we read Jesus' observations concerning the widow's offering. Why do we give to the church? Are we to give from our leftovers or from our first fruits? (See Lev. 23:9-14.) In what way is giving an act of faith?
2. Jesus foretells the coming destruction of the temple and speaks of the signs that will indicate the time is at hand. What would the destruction of the temple mean to the Jews and for their worship?

3. "But before all this they ... will persecute you?" (vs. 12) How may we understand Jesus' teaching that persecution is in fact an opportunity? What does Jesus mean when he promises that "I will give you a mouth and wisdom which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict" (vs. 15)?

4. In this passage in which Jesus warns his disciples of both the coming judgment and of the coming persecution, what comfort does he give them (vs. 18-19)? Also, in the midst of suffering and persecution, we are to endure. How can we be assured that we will endure? (See Heb. 3:14; Rom. 8:30-31; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; and 1 Cor. 15:57-58.)

5. What will the Second Coming of Christ be like (vs. 19-28)? And what is the instruction that Jesus gives us so that we look forward to his return (vs. 29-36)? What is the warning that Jesus gives us so that we might take his return seriously?

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CHAPTER 22

MARCH 10, 2024

Luke 22:1	The Plot to Kill Jesus
Luke 22:7	The Preparation of the Passover
Luke 22:14	The Institution of the Lord's Supper
Luke 22:24	The Dispute about Greatness
Luke 22:31	Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial
Luke 22:35	Purse, Bag, and Sword
Luke 22:39	Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives
Luke 22:47	The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus
Luke 22:54	Peter Denies Jesus
Luke 22:63	The Mocking and Beating of Jesus
Luke 22:66	Jesus before the Council

1. What is the main work of Satan in Judas? (See verses 1-6.) Since "Satan entered into Judas" (vs. 3), was it still Judas' fault? (See John 12:4-6). Did "the devil make us do it," or are we responsible and liable for our sin? What does this passage tell us about Satan and the nature of sin?

2. Why is it significant that the Lord's Supper was instituted on the night of Passover? (See Ex. 12:5-7, 13; 1 Cor. 5:7; John 1:29; and Rev. 5:11-13.) What does the Passover commemorate? How does Jesus fulfill the Passover?

3. In verses 19-20, we see Christ's institution of the Lord's Supper. What is it that we do in remembrance of him? Explain what is happening in the Lord's Supper. How are we to understand it when Jesus says, "This is my body" and "This cup ... is the new covenant in my blood"?
4. What is the difference between Peter's idea of himself and Jesus' knowledge of him (vs. 33-34)? What are we to do when we fail to render to the Lord the faith and obedience that is due to him? (Consider the way that Peter and Judas both failed the Lord, then note the drastically different outcomes in their lives. What accounts for the difference?)
5. According to verse 42, it seems that Jesus does not want to go to the cross. Despite this, what things does Jesus do and say that portray his willing and submissive spirit? Why is it important to understand that Jesus' human will perfectly submitted to God's will?

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CHAPTER 23

MARCH 17, 2024

Luke 23:1	Jesus before Pilate
Luke 23:6	Jesus before Herod
Luke 23:13	Jesus Sentenced to Death
Luke 23:26	The Crucifixion of Jesus
Luke 23:44	The Death of Jesus
Luke 23:50	The Burial of Jesus

1. What was the charge with which the company of chief priests and officers accused Jesus before Pilate (vs. 3, 5). What is the irony of his being charged with and ultimately killed for this charge? Why is it important that Jesus was in fact the king of the Jews?
2. Trace the decisions Pilate makes (verses 4, 14, 16, 22, 24), and note the reasons for his decision. What does this say about the nature of Pilate's authority? In any event, it was technically under Pilate's legal authority that Jesus was crucified. How is it that it was also the sovereign will of Almighty God that this should be so? (See Gen. 50:20; John 3:16-17; and John 10:14-18). And finally, how is it that it was also our sin that nailed Jesus to the cross? (See Col. 2:13-14; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24; Rom. 6:5-6.)

3. Why didn't Jesus respond to various challenges being issued to him (see verses 35, 37, and 39)? Compare this with the time when he was being tempted by the devil in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13). Why might these be considered Jesus' last temptation? What do Jesus' last utterances tell us about him, his character, and his mission? (See verses 34, 43, and 46.)
4. "Truly I say to you," Jesus declares to the repentant criminal being crucified next to him, "today, you will be with me in Paradise." (vs. 43) What comforting words these are! What does this tell us about what it means to believe in Christ? What brought the criminal to repentance and faith?
5. Why do you think the land went dark when Jesus died? (Consider John 1:3-4.) Also, why was the curtain in the temple torn? What implication for our lives can we draw from the tearing of the temple curtain? (See Hebrews 10:19-20.)

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CHAPTER 24

MARCH 24, 2024

Luke 24:1	The Resurrection of Jesus
Luke 24:13	The Walk to Emmaus
Luke 24:36	Jesus Appears to His Disciples
Luke 24:50	The Ascension of Jesus

1. In verses 1-9, what do the women intend to do as they come to the tomb, and what do they discover? How is their report to the disciples received? What does the disciples' response reveal about their state of expectation concerning Jesus' resurrection?
2. In verse 25, Jesus rebukes the "foolish ones" for not believing the words the prophets had spoken. What is Jesus implying here? What were the prophets speaking about? (See Isa. 53:1-12; Isa. 52:7-10; Ps. 22:1-31; and Zech. 13:7.)
3. According to verse 27 who is the whole bible about? Look to Gen 3:15. Who is the seed of the woman?

4. Why do you think it is only after Jesus breaks bread and blesses it that the two men's eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus? Notice that their immediate reaction is to ponder how Jesus explained the scriptures to them. How does studying God's word lead us to him?
5. Jesus says that he speaks to fulfill scripture. Why is this? Why is it that after Jesus rises from the dead all he wants to tell his disciples about is how scripture has been fulfilled? Who is it that opens our minds to understand scripture? (See verses 31-32, 45.)
6. Extra credit: In verse 49, Jesus said, "And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." And then he ascends into heaven. What do you think is the significance of the ascension? And what is the promise of the Father to be sent, and how is it that the disciples will be "clothed with power from on high." (See Acts 2:1-4.) Finally, what is the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church? In your life?

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