

Serving Christ with hope!

Luke 11 to 13



June 2018

Day 1

What things do you find yourself praying about most? List them.

Why do you pray for those things specifically?

Most people pray whether it is calling out to God: difficult situations, to win a game, before a test, to have that girl or guy notice us, that our parents would stop fighting, to help me know what I am supposed to do with the rest of my life and the list goes on and on and on. There is so much to pray about. There is so much we should be praying about. Jesus prayed. He was and is God. If he prayed to the Father then how important is it for us, sinful men, to pray to God. We need to and we often need help. Jesus taught about this to help his disciples and us today. Ask God to help you understand more about prayer today.

Read Luke 11:1-4

What was Jesus doing?

What question did that spark in the disciples? Think about that question. What did they really want to know?

What kinds of things are we praying about in the following parts of the Lord's prayer? List a couple of things under each.

1. Hallowed be your name –

2. Your kingdom come –

3. Give us each day our daily bread –

4. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those indebted to us –

5. Lead us not into temptation –

Which one of the above parts of prayer do you tend to spend more time praying about if you are honest? Why?

Which one of the above parts of prayer do you tend to ignore? Why?

What kinds of things need to change when it come to your prayer life whether attitudes or practice?

PRAYER – Pray the Lord's Prayer and about what each phrase means.

Day 2

What is something you really wanted and were persistent in asking for it? Why? What was the result?

In that infamous Christmas movie, *A Christmas Story*, Ralphie wants a Red Rider BB Gun. His parents, teachers and even the mall Santa Clause tell him no because he will shoot his eye out. But that does not stop Ralphie from writing letters and essays on getting the gun of his dreams. His persistence pays off. He finds the gun in the corner by the Christmas tree on Christmas morning. Today we look at how part of prayer is that we persistently need to come before our God in prayer. Let us continue to look at prayer today. Ask God to instruct your heart in His truths today.

Read Luke 11:5-8

Summarize what Jesus taught his disciples on prayer yesterday in verses 1 to 4.

Describe the situation in our verses of study today.

What is the man's first reaction to the request for bread? Why do you think he reacts this way?

The man ends up giving his friend the bread. What is the reason he does not give it to him?

What is the reason he gives it to him? (You will need to look at the little footnote next to impudence)

This story shows that we need to be persistent in prayer. What kinds of persistent prayers can be God honoring? List them.

What kinds of persistent prayers are not good and don't honor God?

Which one of the two above are you? What needs to change in how you approach God in prayer?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you be better in prayer and to honor Him.

Day 3

What is something you really wanted, asked for, and got it? Why did you want it so bad? How did it feel to get it?

We all see something that we want: a pair of shoes, a movie, an article of clothing or maybe something bigger like the latest piece of technology, a car and of course the list goes on. Many times we don't ask for those things. Why? We are afraid of our parents or someone else saying no. We do not want to be rejected. So we never ask. Yet there is that rare time that we ask and we get what we asked for. We are excited, happy and tell everybody. God wants us to bring our requests before Him. He wants us to ask. Today we look at this idea in our study of Luke. Ask God to challenge you in your prayer life as you read his word today.

Read Luke 11:9-13

What are we being told to do in verses 9 and 10?

So does this mean that I can ask for a million dollars, or an expensive car and God WILL give it to me? Explain your answer.

What is God showing us about his power and ours in these two verses?

Now look at verses 11 to 13, what do we see about the character of God and his relationship with us?

So think about all of these verses. If you believe what they say, then how do we put God's answers of "no" to our prayers in the right perspective?

I want you to list 4 things you need to pray about, to seek God for, to ask him to open a door regarding below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

PRAYER – Pray about the 4 things you just listed above.

Day 4

If you were to see someone cast a demon out of a person, what do you think would be your thoughts, feelings and questions?

When I first saw the movie *The Exorcist*, the 1970's version, I could not sleep for a few days. I was in high school. I watched it when I was 40 again, for only a few minutes and I was still really freaked out. It was just unreal seeing this little girl possessed and doing and saying things that were not very lady like and were just scary. And to see the priest trying to cast the demon out. Scary. I would be scared. I don't want to see that. I am guessing most of us would have the same reaction to this kind of experience. Jesus cast out demons. People got to see it. Today we look at one of those accounts and how the people reacted to him. Ask God to grow you in your faith as you study the Bible today.

Read Luke 11:14-23

What were the 3 ways the people reacted in verses 14 to 16 when Jesus cast the demon out of the mute man and he began to speak? Next to each one write why you think they reacted that way.

1.

2.

3.

In verses 17 and 18, what is Jesus argument for why someone would not cast out Satan's demons in the name of Satan?

What is Jesus point to them in verse 19?

In verses 20 to 23 who was Jesus saying he was? Why is that important for them to hear?

Why were people so unwilling to acknowledge that Jesus was in fact the Son of God? How is that still true today?

PRAYER – Pray for 2 non-Christians you know to come to faith in Christ.

Day 5

What do you think it would be like to be possessed by a demon? Write down your thoughts.

You can believe me or not, but I did know someone who was possessed by a demon. He told me once that it felt like he was stuffed down into a little black pit in himself. He could see what was going on around him but he was powerless to say or do anything to change his circumstances. He was merely an observer. It was so scary for him. That does not sound like fun to me. It is something most of us have no concept and yet the Bible has many stories of demon possession in the Old and New Testaments. This means they do happen. Today we look at a teaching of Jesus regarding people who have been possessed. Ask God to open your eyes to some hard truths to comprehend.

Read Luke 11:24-26

What do we see happening in verse 24 to the Spirit that has been cast out? What is it looking for?

What does this show you about spiritual warfare even today?

What are we told the spirit does when it finds nowhere to go?

What did the person who had the demon fail to do after the demon was cast out?

If that person does not come to faith in Christ and is filled with the Holy Spirit what horrible thing will happen to them according to these verses? Why is it so bad?

What questions does a passage like this stir up in you in regards to demons, possession and salvation? Write them down here. Then go ask someone for answers.

PRAYER – Pray about the questions you wrote down, that you would find answers in God's Word.

Day 6

What are 5 ways in which God has blessed you in your life?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

I was blessed to be brought up in a moral home where we went to church and eventually to a church that shared the Gospel that we are only saved through faith in Jesus Christ. I was blessed to have a man encourage me and challenge me to pray for my non-Christian friends and school which led me to want to go into ministry. I have been blessed to have a wife who said she would never have married someone who would not have been in the ministry. Wow. These are just a few ways in which I have been blessed. We need to remember God's blessings continually. Ask God to help you see how you have been blessed as you read these two verses today.

Read Luke 11:27-28

Who is the woman saying is blessed in her loud voice in verse 27?

What is she saying about what she thinks about Jesus through this statement?

What kinds of things did he do that would have someone thanking him for the mother that brought him into this world?

Who does Jesus say should be blessed in response to the woman? What does this show that God wants most from his people?

Think about Jesus response. What are ways you have heard the word of God and kept it?

What are ways you have heard the word of God and not kept it?

PRAYER – Confess your sin; give thanks for times you obeyed.

Day 7

Describe a time that before you made a decision about something that you needed to see a “sign”. What sign were you looking for?

I was convinced I would be a bachelor until the rapture. That means I thought I was going to be single and never get married. There were times that I wanted to ask God for a giant neon arrow sign that pointed at the girl that he wanted me to marry. That way there would be no doubt that first there was someone for me and second that I would not waste my time chasing after the wrong girl only to have my heart broken and my dreams dashed again. It did not work that way. Bummer. But God did lead me to the woman of my dreams eventually. I just needed to trust Him and His word and that He had a plan for my life. Ask God to instruct you in His truths as you read His word today.

Read Luke 11:29-32

Jesus says that generation was evil. Why?

Why do you think people then and people today are caught up in looking for signs? How is that a bad thing when you think about faith?

Think about Jonah's plight. How did Jonah point forward to Jesus Christ?

Now think about the Queen of Sheba. How does her plight and life point us forward to Jesus Christ?

What was greater than Solomon and Jonah that was already there? How was that person greater than both of these men?

The Ninevites repented because they not only saw Jonah who lived in the fish but preached the word. The Queen not only saw a great man of wisdom on Solomon but she heard the word of God. This changed them, not the sign. How do your actions, words and attitudes show someone who is trusting or not trusting in Jesus Christ and His word?

PRAYER – Ask God to enlarge your faith, to not look for signs but trust Him and the promises of His word.

Day 8

What are all the negative things that light does?

What are the positive things that light does?

Light is good. I can remember playing the video game Mario World. There is this level in a haunted castle where the ghosts are chasing you. To stop them from chasing you, you have to face them with your light and then run fast again, stop and face them so they stop and so forth. The light keeps the ghosts from killing you. You see light is good. That is a goofy illustration, I know. But light is good for so many things. The negative things about light usually comes back to a problem with us and not light itself. Today we look at light and what that means to us as followers of Jesus. Ask God to help you take these principles and integrate them into your everyday life.

Read Luke 11:33-36

Look at verse 33. What does Jesus say we do and don't do with light?

So when you think about what he says, what is the purpose of light in that verse?

Jesus then makes a comparison of light to the body. What warning and instruction does he give in verses 34 and 35?

Describe what a person might be like if they are full of darkness?

He contrasts that in verse 36. How would you describe the person who is full of the light?

As Christians we are to be light in the darkness. That starts with knowing Jesus Christ. What are 3 ways in which you can shine bright with your whole being so people see the light (Jesus) in you?

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Ask for opportunities to show your light to those around you.

Day 9

What are 3 ways you see in our world today that people are fake, that they are one way but act another in front of other people?

1.

2.

3.

You have a friend who constantly talks about people behind their backs and yet she sits next to you taking notes in church each Sunday. There is a guy in youth group who is a leader and yet you know he constantly tells dirty jokes and uses foul language outside of youth group. Or maybe you think of that parent who is an elder or deacon at church and yet you know they lie at home and also in their business practices. What do you do with someone that looks so clean on the outside, that they know what to do or say when it comes to their faith, yet they don't really live it out in their lives. I hope you will start to see that in our section of study the next several days. Ask God to show you heart as you read today.

Read Luke 11:37-41

What astonished the Pharisee in verse 38? Think about that culture. Why would you understand he would be astonished? Would you be?

How does Jesus turn their comment on them in verses 39 and 40? What does he say to them about their hearts and actions?

What was Jesus saying was most important when it comes to our faith and practice as Christians? Why is that important?

Look at verse 41. Jesus says works are good. But they need to come from the heart, generated because of our faith, and not be done as something others see and commend us for. How do you see people around you doing things for a good appearance and not because of faith?

What are 2 things you struggle with doing to look like a good Christian, and it is not about doing it for the Lord?

1.

2.

PRAYER – Ask God to help you do things to serve him and not for appearing good in other peoples' eyes.

Day 10

What are 2 things you could warn “Christians” in your life who are doing sinful things about? What would you say to them?

1.

2.

I would warn that Christian business person who thinks it is okay to cut corners to get the best contract or who is slightly less than truthful so as to keep an important business relationship. Or I would warn that college student who goes off to school and starts to think differently about abortion and same sex relationships because of the people who accept it around them. I would warn them with God’s word and show them that our faith is not just looking good on the outside but it is believing the truth on the inside. The two need to work together. Yesterday we started to look at Jesus confronting the Pharisees. Today we continue to see that conversation. Ask God to show you your sin as you read the Bible today.

Read Luke 11:42-44

Describe in your own words Jesus warning to the Pharisees in verse 42.

How do people give to God what is required and yet neglect justice in the church today? Come up with some practical examples.

What attitude of the Pharisees is exposed in verse 43?

How do we see that attitude in the church today?

What is Jesus saying to the Pharisees in his third woe in verse 44?

How are there dead people in our churches, who do not even know they are dead spiritually?

Do any of these woes describe you? Explain your answer.

PRAYER – For leaders and people in your church, for your own faith, that it would real and genuine.

Day 11

Describe a time when you insulted someone? How did you react when they told you that you had insulted them?

There is one of two ways that someone will react when you are confronted by someone who says you insulted them. They will either be deeply apologetic and ask for forgiveness because they did not mean to harm you with their words. The other way you might react is that you further insult the person because they are whining and complaining to you about insulting them. They might call you names and really belittle you. I know I have done both of these things. I am not proud of the second reaction. We have been looking at Jesus confrontation of the Pharisees. They were insulted because of his words and so some of the leaders decide to confront Jesus and that is the focus of our study today. Ask God to help you read and understand His word today.

Read Luke 11:45-54

What accusation does Jesus say to these lawyers in verse 46?

How do you see leaders in the world and church doing this same thing today?

Summarize in your own words Jesus accusation against these leaders in verses 47 to 51.

What did Jesus say those leaders should have done? How do we see this today in our world and our church?

Summarize Jesus last word against these leaders in verse 52?

How do we see they did not like what Jesus had to say according to verses 53 and 54?

What are 2 things you see about your faith through the reading today?

1.

2.

PRAYER – Pray you would serve Christ faithfully, honoring him all you do.

Day 12

What are ways in which people say things that they do not mean or even believe?

Why do they say and do them if they do not believe them?

My mom made several dishes of food that I did not like growing up. Whenever she asked if I liked them I would say I did, even though I did not. Why? I thought it would be rude to say that they were gross and I did not want to hurt my mom's feelings. Well as an adult I learned to say what I liked or did not like and I told my mom what I thought of her mac and cheese, rhubarb pie and a few other foods. She was shocked because I had lied to her all those years. Her response was, "did I make anything you liked?" I had hurt her a little bit. The truth would have been best. My lies were exposed. We should always tell the truth because our lies will be found out in time. Ask God to help you think about telling the truth and living out your faith genuinely as you read the scriptures today.

Read Luke 12:1-3

Leaven is the yeast that makes the bread rise. What did Jesus say in verse 1 that made the Pharisees so popular?

How does a hypocrite become so popular? What is their heart's desire?

What does Jesus say will be revealed by people who say one thing publicly but another thing privately in verses 2 and 3?

In what ways will the true intentions of person be revealed in this world but also in the world to come?

What are ways in which you have struggled with hypocrisy – having your private actions and beliefs match up with what you do in front of others?

PRAYER – Pray you would not be a hypocrite but be REAL in all you do and say.

Day 13

In your opinion what is the most powerful attribute or characteristic of God? Explain your answer.

All of God's attributes are powerful because they cannot be divorced from each other. God is loving in his wrath and power. He is holy in his creating and knowledge. They are all interconnected. The attribute hits closest to home will have to do with your own journey. But we serve a great and mighty God who is powerful in many ways. He loves his creation but he judges sin and has to punish disobedience. Today we look at Jesus as he taught his disciples about God the Father. Ask God to impress on your heart how great, awesome and mighty He is as you read His Word.

Read Luke 12:4-7

Look at verses 4 and 5. Why does Jesus say not to fear any man?

In those same verses, why does he say we should fear God?

How do you fear man more than you do God? How should this challenge you to deal with that fear?

What important characteristics of God do we see in verses 6 and 7?

Think about what Jesus is saying. How are these verses encouraging as we think about our lives and our struggles?

What are ways in which you have felt forgotten by God? Next to each one write one thing you can pray about in regards to that thing.

PRAYER – Pray for what you just wrote above.

Day 14

Are there any sins that God does not forgive? What are they? Why do you think He does not forgive that sin?

Many people would say here that suicide is the unpardonable sin. Yet if you read in the Bible, you would quickly see that if you truly know Jesus, committing suicide would not keep you out of heaven. It is still a sin, but a forgivable one. The one who refuses to repent of a sin that the Holy Spirit is convicting him of and says he is right in the sin and continues in it, never repenting is called blaspheming the Holy Spirit. That is the unpardonable sin. The only one. Ask God to teach you many important truths from His word as you read and study today.

Read Luke 12:8-12

Look at verses 8 and 9, what is Jesus saying about standing up for God in these two verses?

What are ways in which as Christians we need to stand up for God? List at least three.

What does Jesus say is forgiven and not forgiven in verse 10?

What kind of situation is Jesus talking about in verses 11 and 12?

What encouragement or hope do you get out of those two verses?

What kind of situation might you be in where you will need God to help you know what to say? Why will it be hard to know what to say?

Who are 3 people or groups that you can pray for who don't know Jesus?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

PRAYER – Pray for the 3 above and for the words to say to unbelievers.

Day 15

What is something somebody else has that you really want? Why do you want it? What extreme would you go to get it?

In *Toy Story 2* Woody is in Andy's mom's yard sale by accident. Al from Al's Toy Barn sees the rare Woody doll and wants to buy him. Andy's mom says he is not for sale and puts him in a safe box. Al is a little upset and then causes a distraction and then takes Woody from the safe box. He really wanted Woody, couldn't have him, and then steals him. That is the kind of extreme people will go to get things that they want and cannot have. Pray that God helps you to examine your own heart as you read and study his word today.

Read Luke 12:13-21

Summarize the situation that we see in verses 13 to 15.

What was Jesus revealing about the attitude of the man's heart in these verses? What did he really want?

Jesus told a parable about a rich man. What do we see about this man in verses 16 to 19?

What are 2 ways you see this man in our world today?

What was the end for this man in verses 20 and 21?

How should that serve as a warning to all of us?

Are you like the man in the parable? Explain.

PRAYER – For contentment with what you have & thanks for God's provision of all things you have.

Day 16

What things make you anxious?

How do you deal with your anxiety?

In the movie *What About Bob*, Bob is a man with lots and lots of anxiety issues. He gets anxious when he goes outside, steps in an elevator, when someone wants to shake his hand, and the list goes on and on. He frustrates all his psychologists because he never moves past those fears and anxieties. It paralyzes him. How do you deal with your anxiety? Do you give those issues to the Lord or do you try to handle them on your own? Anxiety is a huge issue in our world today. And the right and wrong response is to say, "Just trust in Jesus." True on one hand but still something a Christian with anxiety issues can struggle with. Ask God to help you apply His word to your heart today.

Read Luke 12:22-31

What command does Jesus give his disciples in verse 22?

What reason does he give for the command in verse 23?

What are the 3 pictures from nature that God uses to show He loves us and provides all we need? What does he say about each one?

1.

2.

3.

What does Jesus teach us about worry & anxiety in the following verses:

Verse 25 –

Verse 28 –

Verse 29 –

Verse 30 –

Now reread verse 31. How does this verse challenge you to think differently about your life and the things happening around YOU?

PRAYER – About things you are anxious about. Seek God first!

Day 17

If you are honest, what do you want most in this world? Why do you want that so much?

Now be honest again. What does this show you about your heart?

It is a great experience to go to a mall and people watch around Christmas. The conversations you hear between friends, between parents and their children, seeing the loot that people are buying up, seeing the expressions on people's faces says a lot about some of the things that are in their hearts. There is a lot of materialism, a lot of anxiety, a lot of trying to fit into the world. It makes me thankful to all that I have through faith in Jesus Christ. Ask God to reveal the attitude of your heart in this area as you read His word.

Read Luke 12:32-34

Who is giving who what in verse 32?

Think about that. What is incredibly encouraging and awesome about that verse for CHRISTIANS?

What does Jesus say we need to do in verse 33?

How does Jesus contrast treasure on earth and treasure in heaven?

If this verse is true, why do we want to accumulate stuff here on earth?

In verse 34, what does Jesus say about the things we treasure?

Now I ask again, what do the things you treasure reveal about your heart?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you treasure what is most important.

Day 18

How would you get ready for the following situations?

1. Final exam –
2. Job interview –
3. First date –

We all get ready for something. We get dressed in the morning and usually eat something before we go to school or work. If you play a sport you get ready by practicing, stretching and studying your plays. In music you practice your music on your own and with the rest of the band before a concert. When it comes to be ready to get married you get to know your fiancé, go through counseling and take care of many details that need to fall into place. If you don't prepare you will not be ready for the event when it comes and you will fail miserably. Jesus is coming back one day. Will you be ready? Today we study a passage that talks about this event. Ask God to teach you something new today.

Read Luke 12:35-40

What picture of readiness does Jesus use in verses 35 and 36?

What is the servants' reward for being ready in verse 37?

How else will the servants will be blessed in verse 38?

What is Jesus point in talking about the thief in the night in verse 39?

If you knew a thief was going to steal from your house, what would you do to be ready for him?

Look at verse 40. When is Jesus coming back? How does that fact challenge you to be ready for his second coming?

What are some things that you need to change in your life to show you are taking seriously to be ready for Jesus second coming?

PRAYER – Ask God for help to be ready for Jesus second coming.

Day 19

HONESTY QUESTION: If you were given a thousand dollars, how would you spend it? Be detailed.

Most people would spend that money on themselves and not even think twice about helping others with that money. It is only a thousand dollars. And many of us would rationalize in our own hearts that if it was a million dollars then I would do more for other people with it. An exercise like this is a nice little window into our own hearts. Ask God to reveal the attitude of your heart as you study the word today.

Read Luke 12:41-48

Look at verses 42 to 44. What does the faithful servant do?

How does the master reward him for his faithfulness? Why is that a big deal?

How are we to be like that servant?

In verses 45 to 47 what are we told about the unfaithful servant?

How is the master justified in how he treats this servant?

What does Jesus tell us he expects from us as his followers in verse 48?

So which servant are you like from our passage today? Explain.

PRAYER – Ask God to help serve him with all he has given you.

Day 20

Who are people or groups or nations that you look and see that all they want to do is see people divided? Write next to them how and why they want people divided. Think of at least 2.

In the recent movie *Wonder Woman*, Ares the God of war is wreaking havoc on the world by causing World War 1. Diana Prince, aka Wonder woman, knows Ares is the one behind all the bloodshed and division. She knew if she could just kill Ares then war would stop. There would be no more division. We live in a world that is divided. We are divided ethnically, politically, socially, and academically. Today we will see how Jesus coming to earth was one that caused division and not peace. I know that seems opposite of what we think Jesus came to do but let God's word show you his truths today. Ask for a teachable heart.

Read Luke 12:49-53

How does verses 49 and 50 talk about persecution of God's people and Jesus by evil people? Think about the words and phrases.

Look at verse 51, how did what Jesus came to do and say cause division?

He did not bring peace on the whole earth. In what ways did he bring peace, unlike what the Jews expected?

In what ways is Jesus talking about persecution of Christians in verses 52 and 53? Why is that important for us to see as Christians?

Jesus says it here and we read it in I Timothy and I Peter, that persecution is part of the calling to follow Jesus Christ. His coming brings peace for the follower of Christ but divides from the wicked world that hates his message that we carry. Be honest, what cost are you willing to pay to serve Jesus Christ? Or will you hide? Why?

PRAYER – Ask for a willingness to sacrifice all to serve King Jesus.

Day 21

In our world or culture what are 3 signs you might see? What do they signify?

1.

2.

3.

If I am traveling and see a big yellow M, then I know there is a McDonalds nearby and I can get my favorite Sausage McMuffin with cheese. If the sky is a nice bright red at night then I know it will be a nice day tomorrow because of the phrase, "red sky at night sailors delight. Red sky in the morning sailor's take warning." Growing up if I ever heard Michael Paul, yes the dreaded middle name, that was a sign I was in big trouble with my mother, or as an adult, with my wife. Signs. We see them all around us and they point to some kind of reality. It is the same in the Bible and as we look to the end times. We are given signs to show we are in those times. Today we continue talking about this idea of signs. Ask God to help you read and understand the Bible today.

Read Luke 12:54-56

What are the two signs that Jesus mentions in verses 54 to 55? What does he say each one signifies?

What are two other signs from nature that you can think of that show something is about to happen in our world?

1.

2.

When you think about the signs that Jesus mentioned, what would you do knowing those things were about to happen?

So what accusation does Jesus say against the people in verse 56? What were the people missing that was right in front of them?

We see signs that we are in the end times all around us. Yet many of us just go about business as usual, ignoring the signs. Write a prayer that asks God to help you understand the times and wisdom in how to act.

PRAYER – Pray your prayer.

Day 22

What are the many reasons people want to take other people to court in culture today? Try to think of 5 things.

Why do you think people are so “sue” happy today? What do they hope to get out of suing someone else?

There are people in our culture that their “job” is suing people. I talked to a friend in ministry once who knew a guy would hang out on sidewalks in the city and when a car would go to park he would walk near the car and let the car either hit him or when they open the door walk in front of the door so it would hit him and then he would sue the owner. The owner often settled out of court to just make the situation go away and the guy would make his money. It is sad that we have to worry about that kind of situation today. Today Jesus kind of addresses the whole idea of people taking us to court. Ask God to teach you something from this passage of scripture you will read and study today.

Read Luke 12:57-59

What does Jesus want Christians to do in verse 57? What does he not want them to do when it comes to going to court?

According to verse 58, what does Jesus say we ought to try and do? Why?

He wants us to own up to our guilt and try to make amends and payment for what we did. If we don't try to make it right what could be the possible consequence in verse 59? Why is that bad?

What does this have to do with our faith and walk with Jesus?

We need to seek to reconcile with people, to make things right. That is our aim as Christians first with God then with others. What is a situation where you did something wrong and need to seek to settle things? What do you need to do? How will it be hard?

PRAYER – Pray about the situation you wrote about above.

Day 23

What does it mean to repent? How is it different than saying, “I am sorry”?

We are so quick to tell people to say they are sorry when they wrong someone. A brother says something mean to a sister and the parent tells them to say they are sorry. They do as they roll their eyes. Or someone in youth group puts down another person’s school and level of education. We say sorry and the student says the words. And the list goes on for the apologies people will give for “wrongs” done or said. Now was the person really sorry or were they just saying words to please a parent, leader or someone else. In many cases it is to get people off your back. There is no real repentance in that the person still believes what they did is okay and would do it again. Repentance is turning 180 degrees away from what we did and living and being different. Today Jesus talks about repentance. Ask God to reveal the attitudes of your heart as you read.

Read Luke 13:1-5

Summarize the historical event in the following verses:

1. Verse 1 –

2. Verse 4 –

What point was Jesus making between those who died and those left alive in verses 2 and 4b when it comes to sin and rebellion?

Why is it important to see that even those left alive have sin they need to deal with?

What was Jesus point to the people in verses 3 and 5?

What have you repented of in your life (asked forgiveness and turned away from those actions)? List all you can think of.

What sin have you not repented of? Be honest.

PRAYER – Give thanks for Christ's forgiveness; confess your sin.

Day 24

How would you know if a tree was dead? What would be the signs?

What kinds of things would you do with an apparent dead tree?

I hate things that look or are dead. They are discolored, bear no fruit and they seem fruitless and a waste of time to care for. Yet we have to be careful and not be hasty in destroying what appears to be dead. Some plants go through a time of looking dead when all they need is some care and they will spring back to life. It takes time, energy and care. Jesus uses an agricultural example in his spiritual lesson today. Ask God to help you see Jesus message and apply it to your own life.

Read Luke 13:6-9

What is the frustration of the man who owns the fig tree in the parable? Is he justified in his frustration?

What does he want his vinedresser to do? Why?

What is the vinedresser's response? Why do you think he reacts the way he did to the frustration of the tree's owner?

How do some Christian's appear to be dead and bearing no fruit and make some think they should be destroyed?

Yet for the true Christian who is our vinedresser and what is the fertilizer that will help us come to life and bear fruit?

Be totally honest. Are you like the tree not bearing fruit? Explain.

PRAYER – Ask God to make you fruitful and grow you in your faith.

Day 25

What should be done on the Sabbath day (Sunday)?

What should not be done on the Sabbath day?

This question can cause an uproar among Christians. There are those who believe short of turning of your electricity you should do nothing at all. Then there are those in the middle who say you can hike, go for walks, play sports recreationally, but not homework or organized sports or don't go out and eat or shop. Then on the other extreme is we have Christian liberty so do whatever you want to do as long as you are in church. Of course there are people all over the middle between the extremes. I have a feeling there will be differences of opinion on this issue until Jesus comes back again. Today we look at a story in the life of Christ that happened on the Sabbath. Ask God to instruct your heart with his truths today.

Read Luke 13:10-17

Put yourself in the women's shoes. Describe her life from all we are told about her in this story.

Now put yourselves in the shoes of the Jews, as you think about their words and attitudes, where are they coming from?

There is Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath. When you think about what he says and does, what is his view on how we are to observe the Sabbath?

Jesus wants us to show mercy on the Sabbath like he did with the woman. How did the Jews react to Jesus's reasoning and instruction? Why?

What do you need to change in your life to properly observe the Sabbath?

PRAYER – Give thanks for the Sabbath & the opportunity to worship God.

Day 26

What are things that start out tiny and then grow really big?

Humans. Debt. Rumor. Some kinds of plants. We would probably have a pretty big list of small things that become big. It is amazing how rumors start out small like a person is sick and is out of school and how it turns into that person is on their death bed and is not expected to make it through the night. In our study today, Jesus talks about God's Kingdom, how it seems to start so small and yet it will be a great and vast entity when it is all said and done. Ask God to convince you of His truths as you study the Bible today.

Read Luke 13:18-21

How would you personally answer Jesus question: "What is the kingdom of God like?"

Why did you answer the question the way you did?

Why does Jesus compare God's kingdom to a mustard seed in verse 19?

Why does Jesus then compare God's kingdom to the leaven in bread in verse 21?

Why is it very encouraging to think about God's kingdom using these pictures as you think about your faith and also the people who are yet to come to faith in Jesus Christ?

What are 3 things you can be doing to help grow God's kingdom?

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Ask God to open doors to do the things you listed above.

Day 27

What is something you have had a hard time getting into? Why was it hard? What were the obstacles? Did you eventually get in? Explain.

I really wanted to act for a little while. It was hard getting parts in plays or musicals. There were so many talented people out there. There were those who had money to go and take singing and acting lessons. My family did not have that kind of money so I never asked. There were those who had a lot of time on their hands because they did not do anything else. I had sports and youth group and other things I was involved in that were valuable. Those things all combined sort of kept me from pursuing acting in high school and college. Today Jesus talks about how getting into heaven is like entering a narrow door. It is hard. Ask God to help you understand and apply his word to your heart today.

Read Luke 13:22-30

What is the question and answer in verses 23 and 24?

What was Jesus saying about a lot of “religious” people?

Look at verses 25 to 28. How will people appeal to the Lord that they are his people? What is the Lord's response to them?

That means there are a lot of supposed Christians that really are not Christians? What thoughts go through your mind when you read this?

In verses 29 and 30 what does Jesus say about who will be at his table in heaven? What is his point?

Sometimes verses like this can make us question and doubt our faith. Is it doing that to you today? What can you do to find assurance that you will in fact be at that table in heaven?

PRAYER – Ask God to give you assurance that you are His child today?

Day 28

If you saw something was doomed before it even began, what would you do? What would you not do?

If a tornado is coming you go to the storm cellar or under a good solid door frame in your house. If a hurricane is coming you go as far inland as you can. If a fire is coming you drive out of harm's way. If an invading army is approaching your city you head for the hills. If you see something coming in your life that you cannot win, you want to run away. It is the normal thing to do whether natural disasters, bullies or unwinnable situations. Jesus knew his death was coming and yet he did not run away. In fact, he stayed the course and still went to the place, Jerusalem, that people wanted to see him die. We look at that account today. Ask God to guide you in his truths today.

Read Luke 13:31-35

What are the two reasons, one stated and one not, that the Pharisees wanted Jesus to run away from Jerusalem?

In verse 32 what is Jesus reaction to Herod wanting him dead?

In verse 33 what does Jesus say about the history of the Jews with the prophets and ultimately foreshadowing his own death?

What does Jesus say about the Jewish people in verses 34 and 35?

How do we see Jesus's love for the Jews in these verses despite their hatred of him?

What hope did the Jews have according to verse 35? How is that our only hope too?

PRAYER – Pray for 3 people to come to faith in Jesus Christ.