

*Study Guide*



*ADULT BIBLE STUDY  
IN BASIC ENGLISH*

**GOSPEL OF LUKE:  
PICTURE-STORIES  
JESUS TOLD**

*INCLUDES BONUS EASTER LESSON*

Albert W. Gammage & Phyllis Merritt

BAPTISTWAY

Dallas, Texas

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN BASIC ENGLISH**  
**STUDY GUIDE**  
**Gospel of Luke: Picture-Stories Jesus Told**

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First edition: March 2004.

**BAPTISTWAY Management Team**

Executive Director, Baptist General Convention of Texas: Charles Wade  
Coordinator, Church Health and Growth Section: H. Lynn Eckeberger  
Director, Bible Study/Discipleship Center: Dennis Parrott  
Publishing consultant: Ross West, Positive Difference Communications

**Language Materials Team**

Writer for Basic English Study Guide for Unit 1, Lessons 1-7  
Albert W. Gammage, Lamar Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas  
Writer for Basic English Study Guide for Unit 1, Lessons 8-13, Easter Lesson  
Phyllis Merritt, Waco, Texas  
Editors for Basic English Study Guide for Unit 1  
Jennifer Carson and Cindy Dake, First Baptist Church Arlington, Arlington, Texas  
Facilitator for the Adult Basic English Team  
Paul Atkinson, Project Director, Texas Partnerships, Baptist General Convention of Texas

Patty Lane, Director, Office of Intercultural Initiatives, Baptist General Convention of Texas  
Nelda P. Williams, Facilitators Coordinator and Manager, Curriculum Development Office

# Word List

## Lesson 1

**lesbian:** a woman who has sex with another woman

**parable:** a picture-story told by Jesus to teach the truth about God

**prostitute:** a woman who gives sex in exchange for money

**prophet:** a person sent by God who speaks God's truth

## Lesson 2

**Moses:** the man whom God chose to be the first leader of the people of Israel; the man who wrote the books of the Law in the Old Testament

**attacked:** tried to hurt someone

## Lesson 3

**dining:** eating

**surprised:** shocked or not expecting something to happen

**customs:** things people usually do in their culture

## Lesson 4

**lottery ticket:** a piece of paper someone buys to play a game where he can win a lot of money

**therapist:** a person who is trained to help

people with their problems

## Lesson 5

**divorce:** when a husband and wife end their marriage

**earthquake:** a shaking or trembling of the earth beneath the surface

**tornado:** strong, spinning, destructive winds shaped like a funnel

## Lesson 6

**society:** all the people who live in a place

**failure:** a person who is not able to do something

**humility:** not being proud

**ambition:** strong desire to get something you want

**conceit:** thinking too highly of oneself

**grasped:** took hold of

**exalted:** raised up to a high place of honor

## Lesson 7

**camping:** cooking and sleeping outside

**prisoner:** a person who is held by the police for committing a crime

**funeral:** the burial of a dead person

**crucified:** to be killed by being nailed to a cross

# Word List

## Lesson 8

**separated:** apart, not together

**reconciled:** brought together, made right with God

## Lesson 9

**manager:** someone in charge of a business; a boss. Example: Someone who takes care of a store or land for someone else

**waste:** to use in a wrong way

## Lesson 10

**beggar:** a person who asks for food or money from others

**hell:** the place of punishment that lasts forever for those who do not obey God

## Lesson 11

**reward:** something given to someone who has done a good service

**duty:** what we should do because it is right

**slaves:** a person owned by another person

## Lesson 12

**judge:** the person who is head of the court

**unfit judge, bad judge:** a judge who does not do a good job

**widow:** a woman whose husband had died

## Lesson 13

**temple:** house of God

**tithing:** giving one-tenth of what you have

to God

**fast:** go without food to pray better

## Easter Lesson

**traveler:** someone on a trip or a journey

**resurrection:** life after death. Jesus showed He was God's Son by His power over death.

**Jesus Christ:** the name *Jesus* means One Who saves. The title *Christ* means Lord.

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# ◊ Gospel of Luke ◊

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Unit 1

*Adult Bible Study in Basic English*

**Lesson 1:** Love and Forgiveness (Luke 7:36-50)

**Lesson 2:** Love and Life (Luke 10:25-37)

**Lesson 3:** God's Loving-Favor and Prayer (Luke 11:5-13)

**Lesson 4:** Things or Life (Luke 12:13-21)

**Lesson 5:** Who Should Suffer and Die? (Luke 13:1-9)

**Lesson 6:** How to Be Important (Luke 14:7-14)

**Lesson 7:** What It Takes to Follow Jesus (Luke 14:25-33)

**Lesson 8:** The Lost Coin; The Father with Two Sons (Luke 15:8-32)

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**Lesson 11:** The Unrewarded Servant (Luke 17:7-10)

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**Lesson 13:** Two People at Prayer (Luke 18:9-14)

**Easter Lesson:** Knowing the Risen Christ (Luke 24:13-35)

## UNIT 1

### PICTURE-STORIES JESUS TOLD

**T**he Book of Luke is one of the most beautiful stories ever written. It is one of the four books in the Bible called the Gospels. The Gospels are about the life and teachings of Jesus. Luke was the writer of this book. He was the only Bible writer who was not a Jew. Luke was a Gentile and a doctor. He worked with the Apostle Paul.

Luke records many of the picture-stories Jesus told. Sometimes picture-stories are called parables. Jesus used many picture-stories to teach people. A picture-story is about something that did not really happen. The purpose of telling the story is to teach truth about God. Picture-stories explain how He wants us to live. Jesus told these stories so that people would be able to understand the truth better. You must think deeply to understand picture-stories.

About 60 picture-stories from Jesus are in the Bible. Many picture-stories are found in more than one of the Gospel books. We will study the picture-stories that are found only in the Book of Luke. We will do this to study the picture-stories more fully. Doing this helps us see how Luke's Gospel fits together. It helps us understand the important things Luke wants us to know.

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*Albert W. Gammage wrote the first seven lessons in the unit on Luke. He is an emeritus missionary who served with his wife, Nettie, for 38 years in Korea and the Philippines with the International Mission Board. He is a member of Arlington's Lamar Baptist Church and is active in the church's ministry to internationals.*

*Phyllis Merritt wrote the last six lessons in Luke, plus the Easter Lesson. She and her husband, Jack, live in Waco, Texas.*



Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

# Love and Forgiveness

Lucrene was a **lesbian**. She lived in a small town in the Philippines. I helped to start a church in that town. One day I taught a Bible study near Lucrene's home. She came to the Bible study. Lucrene decided to trust in Jesus as her savior and Lord. She was very happy that her sins were forgiven. She invited her relatives and friends to Bible studies at her home. Twelve of them accepted Jesus as savior and Lord. Lucrene served Christ well because she loved Him so much. She loved Him because He forgave all her sins. In this lesson, we will study a **parable**, or picture-story, about love and forgiveness.

## Bible Text

Luke 7:36-50

## Memory Verse

"I tell you, her many sins are forgiven because she loves much. But the one who has been forgiven little, loves little."  
(Luke 7:47)

## Word List

**lesbian:** a woman who has sex with another woman

**parable:** a picture-story told by Jesus to teach the truth about God

**prostitute:** a woman who gives sex in exchange for money

**prophet:** a person sent by God who speaks God's truth

## **Sinner (Luke 7:36-38)**

Jesus went to the home of a proud religious law-keeper to eat (v. 36). He sat down on the floor beside a low table. He leaned on his side and stretched out his legs. A certain woman in the city was a sinner (v. 37). She did not obey the religious rules of the Jews. Maybe she was a **prostitute**. Probably she had heard the teaching of Jesus and believed in Him. The woman loved Jesus. She wanted to serve Him.

The woman came into the house. She brought a "jar of special perfume" (v. 37). She cried. "Her tears wet His feet and she dried them with her hair" (v. 38). In this way she cleaned the dust off His feet. Then "she kissed His feet and put the special perfume on them" (v. 38). The woman did these things because she loved Jesus very much. She wanted to serve Him.

All of us are sinners (Romans 3:23). Are you serving Jesus by serving others (Matthew 25:40)? If not, think more about how God forgave your sins. Then you will love Him more.

## **Proud Religious Law-Keeper (Luke 7:39)**

A proud religious law-keeper asked Jesus to eat at his

**Things To  
Think About**

1. What have you done to serve others during the past month?
2. Do you know anyone who is proud because he or she obeys all the rules of their religion? Is he or she a loving person who serves others a lot?
3. Why can a person not be saved from the punishment of sin by obeying religious rules?
4. What is the meaning of faith that saves a person from the punishment of sins?

house. His name was Simon. He belonged to a group of Jews called Pharisees. This word means “separated ones.”

Pharisees separated themselves from the way other Jews lived. They did this to obey all the hundreds of rules of the Jewish religion. They were very proud because they thought they were better than other people.

The proud religious law-keepers were very careful not to have anything to do with sinners. They believed that sinners were spiritually unclean. The Pharisees believed they would become spiritually unclean if they touched a sinner. If they became unclean, they would have to go to the temple. The temple was a Jewish house of worship. The Pharisees believed they must make an animal sacrifice at the temple. They did this to become spiritually clean again.

For this reason, Simon thought that the woman should not touch Jesus. The woman was a sinner. Simon said that Jesus was not “One Who speaks for God” (v. 39). Simon said Jesus was not a true **prophet**. If He was, He would have known the woman was a sinner. He would not let her touch Him. Many religious people today are like the proud religious law-keeper. They are proud that they obey all the rules of their religion. They think they are better than those who do not follow all the rules.

**Teachers (Luke 7:40-50)**

Jesus taught Simon that he was wrong. Jesus told Simon a picture-story. The story was about two men who owed a certain man some money. One man owed him 500 pieces of silver. At that time, few workers earned that much in a whole year. The other man owed only fifty pieces of silver. Neither man had any money. So the man who lent them the money “told them they did not have to pay the money back” (v. 42).

Then Jesus asked Simon a question: Which one would love the money-lender most? Simon answered that he thought “it would be the one who owed the most” (v. 43). Jesus told him that his answer was right.

Then Jesus told Simon that the sinful woman had done what Simon should have done. Simon did not do what the owner of a house should (vv. 44-46). According to Jewish custom, Simon should have given Jesus water to wash His feet. The woman washed Jesus’ feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. Simon should have kissed the face of Jesus once. The woman kissed His feet many times. Simon should have put oil on Jesus’ head. The woman put perfume on His feet.

Jesus told Simon that the woman’s many sins were forgiven. Her sins were forgiven because she loved much (v. 47). The woman loved Jesus much because she knew that God’s forgiveness was great. She knew this because she had so many sins. However, the proud religious rule-keeper did not think he had many sins. He did not think that God’s forgiveness was great. Therefore, he had very little love for others.

Jesus told the woman that her sins were forgiven (v. 48). But the people who were eating with Jesus were surprised that he said this. Probably they did not believe that Jesus could forgive sins. They did not

believe that He was the Son of God. They might have wondered if He had the power to forgive sins.

Finally, Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you from the punishment of sin” (v. 50). He was teaching all the people that faith is what saves us from the punishment of sin. Obeying religious rules does not save us from the punishment of sin. It does not matter how many sins someone has. He can be forgiven through faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Apostle Paul taught this, too. “For by His loving-favor you have been saved from the punishment of sin through faith. It is not by anything you have done. It is a gift of God. It is not given to you because you worked for it. If you could work for it, you would be proud” (Ephesians 2:8-9). The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love (Galatians 5:6).

The Pharisee, Simon, was proud because he thought his hard work saved him. He had no love because his sins were not forgiven. The woman with many sins was saved by faith. God forgave all her sins, so she served Jesus with much love. Are you like the proud religious law-keeper or the woman who was a sinner?

**Luke 7:36-50**

**36:** One of the proud religious law-keepers wanted Jesus to eat with him. Jesus went to his house and sat down to eat.

**37:** There was a woman in the city who was a sinner. She knew Jesus was eating in the house of the proud religious law-keeper. She brought a jar of special perfume.

**38:** Then she stood behind Him by His feet and cried. Her tears wet His feet and she dried them with her hair. She kissed His feet and put the special perfume on them.

**39:** The proud religious law-keeper who had asked Jesus to eat with him saw this. He said to himself, "If this Man were One Who speaks for God, He would know who and what kind of a woman put her hands on Him. She is a sinner."

**40:** Jesus said to him, "I have something to say to you, Simon." And Simon said, "Teacher, say it."

**41:** There were two men who owed a certain man some money. The one man owed 500 pieces of silver money. The other man owed 50 pieces of silver money.

**42:** Neither one of them had any money, so he told them they did not have to pay him back. Tell Me, which one would love him the most?"

**43:** Simon said, "I think it would be the one who owed the most." And Jesus said to him, "You have said the right thing."

**44:** He turned to the woman and said to

Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house and you gave Me no water to wash My feet. She washed My feet with her tears and dried them with the hairs of her head.

**45:** You gave me no kiss, but this woman has kissed my feet from the time I came in.

**46:** You did not put even oil on My head but this woman has put special perfume on My feet.

**47:** I tell you, her many sins are forgiven because she loves much. But the one who has been forgiven little, loves little."

**48:** Then He said to the woman, "Your sins are forgiven."

**49:** Those who were eating with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this Man Who even forgives sins?"

**50:** He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you from the punishment of sin. Go in peace."



*Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English*

### **Bible Text**

Luke 10:25-37

### **Memory Verse**

“The man said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart. You must love Him with all your soul. You must love Him with all your strength. You must love Him with all your mind. You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.’” (Luke 10:27)

### **Word List**

**Moses:** the man whom God chose to be the first leader of the people of Israel; the man who wrote the books of the Law in the Old Testament

# Love and Life

I once heard of a sick woman whose kidneys stopped working well. If no one would give her a kidney, she would die. The sick woman’s sister gave her a kidney. The one kidney her sister had left might stop working well also. Her sister could die if this happened. The sick woman’s sister risked death to save the sick woman’s life.

One of the most well known picture-stories Jesus told is the story about the Good Samaritan. This picture-story teaches us to love others. If we do, we will try to save their lives from suffering and death. We might have to risk our lives to do this.

### **Looking for Life (Luke 10:25-29)**

A man who knew the Law came to Jesus (v. 25). He was a scribe. The Law was the set of religious rules that **Moses** gave the Jewish people. The Jews believed that people could have life that lasts forever if they obeyed these rules. The scribe wanted to trap Jesus. He Jesus a tough question. He asked, “What must I do to have life that lasts forever?” (v. 25). The scribe thought Jesus would give an answer that went against the Law.

Jesus answered the question by asking the man another question. “What is written in the law? What does the Law say?” (v. 26). The man answered by telling what the Law said in Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. The first verse said that people must love God with all their heart, soul, strength and mind (v. 27). The second verse said that they must love their neighbor as they love themselves (v. 27). Jesus said that he had given the right answer. If he obeyed these laws, he would have life that lasts forever.

The man knew he could not obey these laws well enough to have life that lasts forever. He could have asked Jesus to tell him how he could obey these laws. Instead, he “tried to make

**attacked:** tried to hurt someone

**Things To Think About**

1. Who would be like a Samaritan where you live? Would you accept help from such a person?
2. Would you help a person who hates you?
3. Would you try to help a person get out of a burning house even though you might be hurt or killed?
4. When did you last try to help someone in need?

himself look good” (v. 29). He was a proud man. So he tried to trap Jesus again. He asked the question, “Who is my neighbor?” (v. 29).

Many people today are like this proud man. They think that they are good people. They believe they have life that lasts forever because they are good. They may even go to church often. They may try to live according to teachings of the Bible. But the Bible says, “All men have sinned” (Romans 3:23). So how can a person get right with God? The Bible says, “Man's sins can be forgiven through the blood of Christ when they put their trust in Him” (Romans 3:25).

**Not Caring for Life (Luke 10:30-32)**

Jesus answered the man's question by telling a picture-story. The Jews of that time thought that only other Jews were their neighbors. They hated Gentiles. They also hated Samaritans, who were part Jew and part Gentile. The Jews would not even help a Gentile woman when she was having a baby. Now Jesus showed the man that Gentiles and Samaritans also were neighbors he must love.

According to the story, a man was going down from Jerusalem to the city of Jericho (v. 30). The man probably was a Jew because he had left from Jerusalem. Jericho was 3,300 feet lower than Jerusalem. So he was “going down” (v. 30). Some robbers **attacked** him. “They took his clothes off and beat him” (v. 30). When they left, he was “almost dead” (v. 30). Robbers would often hide beside that road until someone came by. Then they would rob him.

Then a Jewish religious leader came by and saw the man (v. 31). But he did not help him. He went by on the other side of the road. Why did he not stop to help the man? Maybe he was on his way to do some religious work in the temple at Jerusalem. According to the Law, if a person touches a dead

body, he will be religiously unclean for seven days (Numbers 19:11). So, if the man was dead, the religious leader could not touch him. If he did, he would not be able to do his work at the temple. Another reason may have been that he was afraid the robbers would attack him.

Next, “a man from the family group of Levi” came by (v. 32). The Levites helped the religious leaders do work in the temple. He saw the man who was hurt, but he “kept on going on the other side of the road” (v. 32). Maybe the Levite passed by for the same reason as the religious leader. Even though they noticed the man needed help, they did not love him. Some religious people today do not help others in need because they do not love them.

### **Giving Life (Luke 10:33-37)**

Then a “man from Samaria” came to the man who was hurt (v. 33). The Samaritans and the Jews hated each other. Some Samaritans might have killed the man. But this one “had loving-pity on him”(v. 33). The Samaritan wanted to help the man because he loved him. The robbers might have attacked him, but the Samaritan got down from his donkey. He “put oil and wine on the places where the man was hurt and put cloth around them” (v. 34). Medical doctors of that time treated cut places in that way.

Then the Samaritan took the man to a “place where people stay for the night” on “his own donkey” (v. 34). There he took care of the man until the next day. Then he left to finish his trip. Before he left, he gave the owner of the place some money to take care of the man. The Samaritan told the owner he would pay more on his return trip. People who saw this Samaritan helping a Jew must have been very surprised.

After telling the picture-story, Jesus asked a question. He said, “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who was beaten by the robbers?” (v. 36). Jesus could have asked some more questions. Which one loved his neighbor as himself? Which showed that he had life that lasts forever? The man who knew the Law answered, “The one who showed loving-pity on him” (v. 37). Then Jesus told the man to “go and do the same” (v. 31). In other words, Jesus was telling him he must have saving faith. That kind of faith would make it possible to love all people as he loved himself.

Do you have that kind of faith? If you do, you will love all people as you love yourself. You will want to help meet their needs, whether physical or spiritual needs. You will never have perfect love for your neighbor. However, the more your faith grows, the more you will love God and other people.

**Luke 10:25-37**

**25:** A man stood up who knew the Law and tried to trap Jesus. He said, “Teacher, what must I do to have life that lasts forever?”

**26:** Jesus said to him, “What is written in the Law? What does the Law say?”

**27:** The man said, “You must love the Lord your god with all your heart. You must love Him with all your soul. You must love Him with all your strength. You must love Him with all your mind. You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.”

**28:** Jesus said to him, “You have said the right thing. Do this and you will have life.”

**29:** The man tried to make himself look good. He asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?”

**30:** Jesus said, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to the city of Jericho. Robbers came out after him. They took his clothes off and beat him. Then they went away, leaving him almost dead.

**31:** A religious leader was walking down that road and saw the man. But he went by on the other side.

**32:** In the same way, a man from the family group of Levi was walking down that road. When he saw the man who was hurt, he came near to him but kept on going on the other side of the road.

**33:** Then a man from the country of

Samaria came by. He went up to the man. As he saw him, he had loving-pity on him.

**34:** He got down and put oil and wine on the places where he was hurt and put cloth around them. Then the man from Samaria put this man on his own donkey. He took him to a place where people stay for the night and cared for him.

**35:** The next day the man from Samaria was ready to leave. He gave the owner of that place two pieces of money to care for him. He said to him, “Take care of this man. If you use more than this, I will give it to you when I come again.”

**36:** “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who was beaten by the robbers?”

**37:** The man who knew the Law said, “The one who showed loving-pity on him.” Then Jesus said, “Go and do the same.”



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### Bible Text

Luke 11:5-13

### Memory Verse

“For everyone who asks, will receive what he asks for. Everyone who looks, will find what he is looking for. Everyone who knocks, will have the door opened to him.”  
(Luke 11:10)

### Word List

**dining:** eating

**surprised:** shocked or not expecting something to happen

**customs:** things people usually do in their culture

# God's Loving-Favor and Prayer

One time a man from Europe wanted to live in America. He bought a ticket to ride on a ship. He took some food with him to eat on the ship. The food was not enough. He became very hungry. The man saw other people eating in the **dining** room. He thought he did not have enough money to buy food there. When he got to America, a friend met him. He told his friend that he was very hungry. The friend was very **surprised**. He asked the hungry man, “Why did you not eat in the dining room?” “I did not have enough money to buy food there,” the hungry man answered. “You fool!” his friend said. “Your ticket included the cost of the food.” The hungry man did not know that he could ask for food.

In this lesson we will study a picture-story Jesus told about prayer. Before Jesus told it, one of His followers asked Him to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1). Jesus taught them a prayer (Luke 11:2-4). This picture-story will teach us about asking God for things in prayer.

### **What Man Does (Luke 11:5-8)**

Jesus' picture-story begins with a problem. A man had a friend who came to him late at night. The friend asked him for three loaves of bread. The friend needed the bread because a visitor on a trip has stopped at his house. People traveled at night because it was not hot then. The friend had “no food to give him” (v. 6). People usually cooked only enough bread for what they needed for one day. When the day was over, none was left.

According to Jewish **customs**, visitors must be given food. Even though it was late at night, the man with the visitor asked his neighbor for help. The neighbor said through the locked door, “Do not trouble me” (v. 7). He answered that way because his

**Things To  
Think About**

1. If someone rings your doorbell after you are asleep in bed, would you get up and answer the door?
2. Why does Jesus teach us to keep on asking if God does not answer us the first time we ask?
3. How can we know if God does not want us to have something we ask for?
4. When you need help to solve some problem, do you ask God to give you the Holy Spirit's help?

door was already locked. Jews usually did not lock their door. They locked the door only when they did not want their neighbors to visit them. Also his children were already in bed with him. Houses at that time usually had only one room. The family stayed in the back part on a wooded floor. At night, the animals stayed in the front part on a dirt floor just behind the door. If the father opened the door, the whole family and the animals would wake up. So the father said to the neighbor, "I cannot get up and give you bread."

Asking his neighbor to get up and give him some bread was not a good thing to do. Most Jews would not do that. So the **surprise** of the picture-story was Jesus' reply. "He may not get up and give him bread because he is a friend. Yet, if he keeps on asking, he will get up and give him all he needs" (v. 18). People act like those in the picture-story. But God acts differently when people ask him in prayer.

**What God Does (Luke 11:9-12)**

What does this picture-story teach us about prayer? Some people think it means that God does not want to give us what we ask for in prayer. They think we have to beg Him to answer our prayers. If we beg Him enough, He will get tired of our begging. Then He will give us what we want. These people may cry and shout trying to get God to answer. Or they may pray the same thing many times in one prayer. Jesus said, "When you pray, do not say the same thing over and over again making long prayers like the people who do not know God. They think they are heard because their prayers are long" (Matthew 6:7).

Other people think if they believe very strongly, then God will answer their prayer. For example, God will heal a sick person if they believe strongly enough. However, Paul was not healed when he prayed that God would take away the

trouble in his body (2 Corinthians 12:7-9). The Bible says, "If you do ask, you do not receive because your reasons for asking are wrong. You want these things only to please yourselves" (James 4:3).

Jesus clearly teaches us the meaning of this picture-story. He says, "Ask, and what you ask will be given. Look and what you are looking for you will find. Knock, and the door you are knocking on will be opened unto you" (v. 9). The word *ask* means to keep on asking. *Look* means keep on looking. And *knock* means keep on knocking. We should not give up if God does not answer our prayer the first time we ask Him for something. We should keep on asking Him until we receive an answer. In my prayer life, an answer to prayer sometimes does not come until years after I begin praying.

### **Why God Gives Good Things (Luke 11:13)**

God is not like the neighbor who did not want to get up help his friend. He wants to give us the things that are good for us. Earthly fathers want to give their children good things (v. 13). God is full of loving-favor. How much more does He want to give good things to His children? People do not deserve God's gifts. God does not give us things because we have done something good. He answers our prayers because He

loves us.

God does not always give us just what we ask for. Sometimes what we ask for is not good for us. Then God gives us something better than what we ask for. When we ask for things in prayer, we should remember what James said. "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that" (James 4:15).

The night before he was killed, Jesus prayed in a place called Gethsemane. He did not want to die on a cross. But He prayed, "My Father, if it can be done, take away what is before Me. Even so, not what I want but what You want." The best thing was for Jesus to suffer and die so people could be forgiven. After that, He would be raised from the dead and taken up to heaven. There He would be the ruler of all things. He was sent to earth for that purpose. Sometimes the best thing for us is to suffer in order to help others.

The best gift God can give Christians is the fullness of the Holy Spirit. When we ask God for the Holy Spirit's power and guidance, He will give it to us.

Is there something you have asked God for but have not received? Keep on asking Him for it. But always tell Him, "Not what I want but what you want." Remember that God is a loving father who wants to give you good things.

**Luke 11:5-13**

**5:** Jesus said to them, "If one of you has a friend and goes to him in the night and says, 'Friend, give me three loaves of bread,

**6:** for a friend of mine is on a trip and has stopped at my house. I have no food to give him.'

**7:** The man inside the house will say, 'Do not trouble me. The door is shut. My children and I are in bed.'

**8:** I say to you, he may not get up and give him bread because he is a friend. Yet, if he keeps on asking, he will get up.

**9:** I say to you, ask, and what you ask for will be given to you. Look, and what you are looking for you will find. Knock, and the door you are knocking on will be opened to you.

**10:** For everyone who asks, will receive what he asks for. Everyone who looks, will find what he is looking for. Everyone who knocks, will have the door opened to him.

**11:** "Would any of you fathers give your son a stone if he asked for bread? Or would you give a snake if he asked for a fish?

**12:** Or if he asked for an egg, would you give him a small animal with a sting of poison?

**13:** You are sinful and you know how to give good things to your children. How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"



Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

Luke 12:13-21

### Memory Verse

“Then Jesus said to them all, ‘Watch yourselves! Keep from wanting all kinds of things you should not have. A man’s life is not made up of things, even if he has many riches.’” (Luke 12:15)

### Word List

**lottery ticket:** a piece of paper someone buys to play a game where he can win a lot of money

**therapist:** a person who is trained to help people with their problems

# Things or Life

A woman named Ruth lived in the city of Chicago. She had two sons but no husband. Ruth made very little money from her job. She sometimes felt bad about her life. The woman bought five dollars worth of **lottery tickets** every week. She hoped this would bring her a lot of money. One day Ruth won the lottery. She received twenty-two million dollars. She was very glad that she had become rich.

Ruth bought an eighteen-room house, expensive clothes, and a very expensive car. Having all these things did not make her happy. She became so sad that she had to go to an expensive **therapist** for help. Having a lot of money and the things she bought made her life worse. The picture-story we will study in this lesson will teach us how things can affect our lives. We will see that we must choose whether things or life will be most important.

### **What to Want (Luke 12:13-15)**

Jesus taught us what to want. Once Jesus was teaching a group of people about the Holy Spirit (Luke 12:10-12). “One of the people said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the riches that our father left us’” (v. 13). Teachers were people who taught religion. Since Jesus was a teacher, the man thought Jesus would understand his problem. So he tried to get the help of Jesus.

According to Jewish law, the older brother was supposed to receive two-thirds of the money and things belonging to the father. The younger brother would receive only one-third. The older brother probably did not give the one-third to his younger brother. However, the man did not ask Jesus to help him get his money and things. Instead, he “told” Jesus to do it (v. 14).

Since it was the law, he ordered Jesus to help him get his

**Things To  
Think About**

1. Do you know of someone who works more than he or she needs to work because that person wants to become rich? Is that person happy?
2. Do you know someone who died when he or she did not expect it?
3. Do you know of someone who wants to rest, eat, drink, and have fun more than anything else? Is that person really happy?
4. Are you willing to do anything God wants you to do?

brother to obey the law. Jesus would not do that. Jesus said to him, “Friend, who has told me to say who should get what?” (v. 14). There were certain kinds of people called arbiters who decided problems about the law. They were like judges. The work of an arbiter was not what Jesus came to do. He came to teach people about God and how He wants people to live.

So Jesus used this chance to teach the whole group of people what God wants them to want. He said, “Watch yourselves! Keep from wanting all kinds of things you should not have”(v. 15). He was warning them of the sin of greed. Jesus did not mean that they should not want the things they need.

Another time Jesus taught that God wants people to have the things they really need. He said that God would provide their needs like food, drink, and clothes. “Your Father in heaven knows you need all these things” (Matthew 6:32). Jesus meant that they should be careful not to have greed in their hearts. The Word of God warns against the sin of greed in many places. The Bible says, “Among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people” (Ephesians 5:3 NIV).

Then Jesus taught them that God wants people to want life, not things they should not have (v. 15). This life is “a great, full life” (John 10:10). This life is full of joy, peace, love, and purpose. This life is “life that lasts forever” (John 10:28).

This kind of life is what all people should want. Do you want life or more things?

**The True Riches (Luke 12:16-20)**

Then Jesus told them a picture-story. “The fields of a

rich man gave much grain” (v. 16). His grain building was too small to hold all that grain. So he decided to tear down that grain building and build a bigger one. Then he could put all his grain and other things into it. Some people today want to keep all the money they make for themselves. They do not want to give anything to help other people. Then the rich man said, “I will say to my soul, ‘Soul you have many good things put away in your building. It will be all you need for many years to come. Now rest and eat and drink and have lots of fun’” (v. 19).

The words *rest, eat, and drink and have fun* mean “do these things all the time.” The rich man did not want to do any work. The Bible teaches how a person should “eat and drink, and be happy. For this will be with him in his work through the days of his life which God has given him” (Ecclesiastes 8:15). The person should do this while working. And people should trust in God to give them the things they need to be happy. The Bible also teaches that it is a sin to try to be happy only by getting a lot of things the body likes (Isaiah 22:13; 1 Corinthians 15:32).

So God told the rich man that he was a “fool” (v. 20). In the Bible a fool is a person who does things that are not good for himself. Why did God say that the rich man was a fool? God said “tonight your

soul will be taken from you” (v. 20). He would die and go to hell that night. He could not take the things he had put away. So someone else would have them.

Then Jesus said, “It is the same with a man who puts away riches for himself and does not have the riches of God” (v. 21). The true riches are not things. True riches are the blessings of life that lasts forever.

Are you working hard to make as much money as you can? Are you using it all to eat, drink, and have fun? If so, God says that you are a fool. You may die tonight and go to hell. Will you decide right now to choose life that last forever instead of things?

**Luke 12:13-21**

**13:** One of the people said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the riches that our father left us.”

**14:** Jesus said to him, “Friend, who has told Me to say who should get what?”

**15:** Then Jesus said to them all, “Watch yourselves! Keep from wanting all kinds of things you should not have. A man’s life is not made up of things, even if he has many riches.”

**16:** Then He told them a picture-story, saying, “The fields of a rich man gave much grain.

**17:** The rich man thought to himself, ‘What will I do? I have no place to put the grain.’

**18:** Then he said, ‘I know what I will do. I will take down my grain building and I will build a bigger one. I will put all my grain and other things I own into it.

**19:** And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many good things put away in your building. It will be all you need for many years to come. Now rest and eat and drink and have lots of fun.” ’

**20:** But God said to him, ‘You fool! Tonight your soul will be taken from you. Then who will have all the things you have put away?’

**21:** It is the same with a man who puts away riches for himself and does not have the riches of God.



*Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English*

### **Bible Text**

Luke 13:1-9

### **Memory Verse**

“No, I tell you. But unless you are sorry for your sins and turn from them, you too will all die.” (Luke 13:3)

### **Word List**

**divorce:** when a husband and wife end their marriage

**earthquake:** a shaking or trembling of the earth beneath the surface

**tornado:** strong, spinning, destructive winds shaped like a funnel

# Who Should Suffer and Die?

When a woman I know was a child, her baby sister died. She was very sad. The pastor of her church said that the baby died because God loved her. God wanted to bring her to heaven. The woman said, “If that is true, I do not want God to love me.” She did not understand why God caused a baby to suffer and die.

Many people today believe that some people are good and others are bad. They think that only bad people should suffer and die before they are old. In this lesson we will study a picture-story that Jesus taught. This study should help us understand this problem of suffering.

### **When Someone Hurts Us (Luke 13:1-3)**

Some Jews came to Jesus to ask him a question. They told Him that “Pilate had killed some people from the country of Galilee” (v. 1). Pilate was the Roman ruler of the country of Judea. The city of Jerusalem was in Judea. The Jews from Galilee “were giving gifts of animals on the altar in worship of God” (Luke 13:10). Pilate did something very bad. He “put their blood together with the blood of the animals” (v. 2). The people wanted to know if those Galileans had suffered and died because they had sinned a lot. The Jews believed that suffering and an early death were always because of many sins. Even the disciples of Jesus believed that. When they saw a man born blind, they asked Jesus about it. “Teacher, whose sin made this man to be born blind? Was it the sin of the man or the sin of his parents?” (John 9:2). People who were sick, poor, or without children were thought to be judged guilty of sin by God. The rich, the healthy, and those who had many children were thought to be blessed by God for their good lives.

God does cause some people to suffer and die because of their sins. God knows that some people who are very evil will

**Things To  
Think About**

1. Why do some people think they should not suffer?
2. Can you remember a time of suffering that helped you spiritually?
3. Is there anything you should do to protect yourself from harm caused by God's laws of nature?
4. Do you know any people who say they are Christians but do not show the fruits of the Holy Spirit in their lives? How can you help them to be sorry and turn from their sins to Christ?

never be sorry and turn away from doing many sins. So God kills them. One of these persons was Herod, King of the countries of Judea and Samaria. He cut off the head of the Apostle James and tried to kill the Apostle Peter. One day Herod was speaking to a group of people. They said that he was a God. Then "the angel of the Lord knocked him down because he did not give honor to God. He was eaten by worms and died" (Acts 12:23).

God sometimes causes suffering and death today because He knows some very bad people will never be turn away from their sins. However, God does not cause most suffering and early death. God allows it for a purpose. People cause some suffering. Sometimes people die because of their sins. For example, some people took a man to Jesus "who was not able to move his body. Jesus saw their faith. He said, 'Son take hope. Your sins are forgiven'" (Matthew 9:2). The man's sin had caused him not to be able to move his body.

In the same way, people who smoke tobacco can cause themselves to get cancer or heart sickness. People who worry a lot can cause themselves to get stomach sickness. Some suffering and death is caused by other people's sins. The Galileans died because of Pilate's sin of murder. Many children suffer because of their parents' **divorce**.

**When Things Hurt Us (Luke 13:4)**

Jesus told about "eighteen men who were killed when a high building fell on them" (v. 4). God or people did not cause this. Jesus said it did not happen because they were the worst sinners living in Jerusalem" (v. 4). The building probably fell because of an **earthquake**. Things like this can cause suffering and death. Many people suffer and die because of storms, floods, **earthquakes**, volcanoes, and **tornadoes**.

I was a missionary in the Philippines. One time I was teaching the Bible to some Christians in the town of Salcedo. Most of the people in the town were farmers. There had been a big storm in that place a few days before. Many homes and farm crops were destroyed or damaged by the storm. After the Bible study was over, the people asked me, "Did God cause the storm that did the damage in Salcedo?" I told them that the storms were part of God's laws of nature. God does not decide when and where they will happen. They happen according to the scientific laws God has made.

These things are good for man the way God made them. Storms bring rain needed by plants and trees. Volcanoes and **earthquakes** are needed to adjust the pressure of the plates on earth's crust. The hot stuff that comes out of volcanoes and the water of floods make the soil better for growing things. People must learn to live with God's laws of nature or they will suffer from these things. For example, people must build houses strong enough to stand against storms. They must not live near active volcanoes.

### **Turn and Trust (Luke 13:5-9)**

Two times Jesus said that the people did not die in Jerusalem because they were worse sinners than other people were. He

said, "But unless you are sorry for your sins and turn from them, you too will all die" (v. 5). Here Jesus was talking about spiritual death, not the death of the body. All people have sinned (Romans 3:23). Sin causes them to die spiritually (Romans 6:23). This means that they should be punished in hell after their body dies. But God will forgive them if they are sorry for their sins and turn from them. At the same time they turn from sin, they must turn to Christ. They must trust in Him to save them from the power and punishment of their sins (Acts 16:31).

To help the people understand this truth, Jesus told them this picture-story. "A man had a fig tree in his grape-field" (v. 6). Every year for three years he came to get some figs. But the tree did not have any. So he told his servant to cut the tree down. The servant said, "Sir! Leave it here for one more year. I will dig around it and put plant food on it." The servant thought the tree might not be giving fruit because it did not have enough plant food. So he said that if it did not give figs after another year, "then cut it down" (v. 9).

This picture-story teaches that God gives everyone enough time to be sorry for his or her sins. But their lives should show that they have repented. As the Apostle Paul said to King Agrippa, "I even preached to the people who are not Jews that they should be sorry for their sins and

turn from them to God. I told them they should do things to show they are sorry for their sins" (Acts 26:20). The things that show we have repented are "the fruit that comes from having the Holy Spirit in our lives" (Galatians 5:22-23). Do you have this fruit in your life?

### Luke 13:1-9

**1:** At this time some people came to Jesus. They told Him that Pilate had killed some people from the country of Galilee. It was while they were giving gifts of animals on the altar in worship to God.

**2:** Pilate put their blood together with the blood of the animals. Jesus said to them, "What about these people from Galilee? Were they worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee because they suffered these things?"

**3:** No, I tell you. But unless you are sorry for your sins and turn from them, you too will all die.

**4:** What about those eighteen men who were killed when the high building in Siloam fell on them? Do you think they were the worst sinners living in Jerusalem?"

**5:** No, I tell you. But unless you are sorry for your sins and turn from them, you too will all die."

**6:** Then He told them this picture-story: "A man had a fig tree in his grape-field. He looked for fruit on it but found none.

**7:** He said to his servant, 'See! For three years I have been coming here looking for fruit on this fig tree. I never find any. Cut it down. Why does it even waste the ground?'

**8:** The servant said, 'Sir! Leave it here one more year. I will dig around it and put plant food on it.

**9:** It may be that it will give fruit next year. If it does not, then cut it down.' "



Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

# How to Be Important

Most Americans have heard about a certain business woman. She owns a company that helps women take good care of their homes. This woman has a television program that many women watch. She has become very rich and famous. One day someone was asking her some questions. The person asked her why she was trying to make more money. She already was very rich. The woman answered, "I want to make as much money as I can because, in America, the more money one has the more important the person is."

Everyone wants to be important. Trying to be important is not wrong. God wants us to try to be as important as we can. But we must try to be important in the right way. In this lesson we will study how to be truly important.

## Trying to Get the Important Place (Luke 14:7-9)

"Jesus went into the house of one of the leaders of the proud religious law-keepers to eat" (Luke 14:1). Jesus saw that all the other people there were "trying to get the most important seats" (v. 7). So Jesus told them a picture-story about a wedding supper.

The Jewish custom was for the host to tell his guests where to sit. The more important the person was, the better the person's seat was. Jesus told the people "not to take the important seat because a more important person might come (Luke 14:6). The host might give the important seat to that man. Then, the person who took the most important seat would have to move. He would have to "sit down on the last seat" (v. 9). He would be ashamed.

At another time Jesus said, "It is bad for you, proud religious law-keepers! For you like to have the important seats in the places of worship" (Luke 11:43). These proud people

### Bible Text

Luke 14:7-14

### Memory Verse

"Whoever makes himself look more important than he is will find out how little he is worth. Whoever does not try to honor himself will be made important." (Luke 14:11)

### Word List

**society:** all the people who live in a place

**failure:** a person who is not able to do something

**humility:** not being proud

**ambition:** strong desire to get something you want

**conceit:** thinking too highly of oneself  
**grasped:** took hold of  
**exalted:** raised up to a high place of honor

### Things To Think About

1. Have you ever been ashamed when you had a low place
2. How can a person get humility?
3. In what ways are you serving others?
4. Why do some people serve others even though they are selfish?

thought that having the important seat would make them important people.

Many people today think that having important places makes them important. Importance is judged by the amount of money, power, fame, and respect someone has. For example, the leaders of the Communist Party in China sometimes have group pictures taken. The closer a leader sits to the head of the party, the more important the person is thought to be.

In America, many people think a person's job shows how important he is. Important jobs give a person lots of money, power, fame, and respect. The head of a company is more important than the workers under him. The President of the United States is more important than the other government workers. The principal of a school is more important than the teachers. Some people even think that the pastor is more important than the other church workers. If a person cannot get an important job, they think they are a **failure**. They feel ashamed. They should not be ashamed. Instead, everyone should try to be important in a different way.

### **The Way of Humility (Luke 14:10-11)**

Jesus told the people to "sit down at the last seat" (v. 10). Then the host might tell them to "go to a more important place to eat" (v. 10). That way they would receive respect.

Jesus explained the meaning of the picture-story. If you try to be important by getting a high place, you will not be important. "Whoever does not try to honor himself will be made important" (v. 11). In other words, a person must not have pride like the proud religious law-keepers. One must have **humility** in order to become important.

One day, Jesus' followers asked Him, "Who is the

greatest in the holy nation of heaven?” (Matthew 18:1). Jesus put a little child among them. Then He said, “Whoever is without pride as this little child is the greatest in the holy nation of heaven” (Matthew 18:4). First, one must be in the holy nation of heaven to be the greatest. Second, a person must have **humility**, not pride.

The Apostle Paul explained what it means to have humility, not pride. He said, “Do nothing out of selfish **ambition** or vain **conceit**, but in **humility** consider others better than yourselves. . . .Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be **grasped**, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, . . .He humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. Therefore God **exalted** him to the very highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name” (Philippians 2:3, 5-9 NIV).

Jesus is the best example of the way of **humility**.

### **The Way of Service**

**(Luke 14:12-14)**

The other way to become important is the way of service to God and people. “Then Jesus said to the man who invited Him to eat in his house, ‘When you have a

supper, do not ask your friends or your brothers or your rich neighbors’” (v. 12). Then he would only be waiting for a return invitation from his guests. Then Jesus said that the man should ask people who were poor, or blind, or cannot walk. These kinds of people could never return the invitation. Jesus said this because he wanted the people who heard Him to choose the way of service. He wanted them to serve others. Then they would get their “pay when the people who are right with God are raised from the dead” (v. 14). Jesus said that this would happen when God judges all people after they are raised from the dead (Matthew 25:31-46). By serving others during their lifetime, they would be serving Christ also. They would be taken to heaven and given spiritual rewards. People who do not serve others would “go to the place where they would be punished forever. But those who are right with God will have life that lasts forever” (Matthew 25:46).

Jesus was not teaching that people are given life that lasts forever in heaven because they have served others. He was teaching that people who were right with God would show it by serving others. The more faithfully they served, the more important they would be.

How are you trying to become important? Your place does not make any difference. Jesus was born in a place where

cattle stayed. He grew up in a carpenter's home. Jesus had very little education. The suit of clothes He was wearing was all He owned. When He went around teaching, He had no place to sleep except on the ground. People said very bad things about Him. He was nailed to a cross like a criminal. Yet Jesus is the most important person who has ever lived. You can be important if you follow Jesus and serve others.

#### **Luke 14:7-14**

**7:** Jesus had been watching those who were asked to come to supper. They were all trying to get the important seats. He told them a picture-story, saying,

**8:** “When you are asked by someone to a wedding supper, do not take the important seat. Someone more important than you may have been asked to come also.

**9:** The one who asked both of you to come may say to you, ‘The important seat is for this man.’ Then you will be ashamed as you take the last place.

**10:** But when you are asked to come to the table, sit down on the last seat. Then the one who asked you may come and say to you, ‘Friend, go to a more important place.’ Then you will be shown respect in front of all who are at the table with you.

**11:** Whoever makes himself look more important than he is will find out how little he is worth. Whoever does not try to honor himself will be made important.”

**12:** Then Jesus said to the man who asked Him to eat in his house, “When you have a supper, do not ask your friends or your brothers or your family or your rich neighbors. They will ask you to come to their place for a supper. That way you will be paid back for what you have done.

**13:** When you have a supper, ask poor people. Ask those who cannot walk and those who are blind.

**14:** You will be happy if you do this. They cannot pay you back. You will get your pay when the people who are right with God are raised from the dead.”



Lesson  
7  
Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

Luke 14:25-33

### Memory Verse

“If one of you wanted to build a large building, you would sit down first and think of how much money it would take to build it. You would see if you had enough money to finish it...” (Luke 14:27)

### Word List

**camping:** cooking and sleeping outside  
**prisoner:** a person who is held by the police for committing a crime  
**funeral:** the burial of a dead person  
**crucified:** to be killed by being nailed to a cross

# What It Takes to Follow Jesus

A man decided to join the American army. He thought it would be fun, like **camping** and hunting. So he joined the army. He went to the training for new soldiers. But this training was very hard. He was tired all the time. The food was not good. The training was not fun. After a few days, he went home. The army police came to see him. They asked why he left the army camp. He answered, “The training was not what I expected. I thought it would be fun, but it was not. I want to quit the army.” He did not know what it takes to be a soldier when he joined.

Jesus knew that it was hard to follow Him. So He wanted those who decided to follow Him to understand what it would take. This lesson should help us understand what it takes to follow Jesus.

### **Family and Life or Jesus? (Luke 14:25-27)**

Jesus had been teaching many people. Many of them “followed Jesus” (v. 25). Jesus knew that some of them did not know what it would take to follow Him. They had seen Him doing great miracles. Probably they thought He would provide all the things they needed. They believed following Him would be easy.

So Jesus told them, “If any man comes to me and does not have much more love for me than for his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my follower” (v. 26). Family love was very strong among the Jews. The Apostle Paul said the love of family was good. He wrote, “Anyone who does not take care of his family and those in his house has turned away from the faith. He is worse than a person who has never put his trust in Christ” (I Timothy 5:8). Jesus was not teaching that His followers should not care for their families. He was teaching that they must be willing to travel around with Him to tell about God’s kingdom.

**Things To  
Think About**

1. What would your family say if you told them you were going overseas as a missionary?
2. If you are a follower of Jesus, how has your life changed since you trusted in Jesus? If you are not a follower, how would your life have to change if you trusted in Jesus as your Lord?
3. If someone said he would kill you if you did not stop following Jesus or if you started following Him, what would you say?
4. What things have you had to give up since you started following Jesus or what things would you have to give up if you decided to follow Him?

That was God's will for their lives.

The Jews believed that they should love God more than anyone else, even their families. The Law that Moses gave to the Israelites told them they must love God more than anyone else. The Law said, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:4). Jesus said that this law “is the first and greatest of the laws” (Matthew 22:37). Jesus expected His followers to believe that he was the Son of God. If they did, they would love Him more than their families or anyone else.

Not long ago a missionary’s father died in a fire. The missionary and her family returned home for her father's **funeral**. But they had to go back to their mission field after only ten days. She was very sad that she could not stay longer to comfort and help her mother. She loved her mother a lot. But she loved Jesus even more. She had to follow Him back to the mission field. Followers of Jesus must love Jesus more than their families. Jesus told the people that a follower must love Him more than “even his own life” (v. 26). Here the word *life* means both how one lives and not being dead. Jesus’ followers must be willing to suffer, change, and even die to follow Him.

At another time Jesus said, “For sure, I tell you unless a seed falls into the ground and dies, it will only be a seed. If it does it will give much grain. Anyone who loves his life will lose it” (John 12:24-25). Just as a seed must die in order to give new life, a follower of Jesus must be willing to give his life to Jesus. Jesus said that a follower must “carry his cross” (v. 27). When a Roman **prisoner** was going to be **crucified**, he had to carry part of the cross to the place he would be killed. Jesus had to do that. Jesus suffered and died in order to do what God wanted Him to do. People who want

to follow Jesus must follow His example. They must be willing to suffer and die in order to do what God wants them to do. They must also die to their old sinful life.

### **Counting the Cost (Luke 14:28-32)**

Jesus told the people that they would have to put Jesus first in order to follow Him. He knew that this would be hard for them to do. So He told them two picture-stories to explain that they should count the cost of following Him. The first picture-story is about a person who “wanted to build a large building” (v. 28). Before starting to build, the person would “think of how much money it would take to build it” (v. 28). If the person did not count the cost of finishing the building, he or she might “not have enough money to finish it” (v. 29). Pilate, the Roman governor of the Jews, had done that. He began building a building to move water. But he did not finish it because he did not have enough money. The people knew about it and would understand what Jesus said.

Then Jesus said that people who see the unfinished building “would make fun of” the person who tried to build it (v. 29). Jesus was pointing out that a person who started out to follow Jesus but later stopped would be ashamed. People would make fun of him or her. Many church members never go to church or serve Jesus in any way. If someone talks to them about this, they

usually are ashamed.

The second picture-story is about a king who is thinking about going to war. The king has 10,000 soldiers, but the enemy has 20,000 soldiers. First he will think about it to see if he can win the battle. If not, he will send a soldier to the other king. “He will ask what can be done to have peace” (v. 32). If the king went to fight an stronger army, he would be defeated. Jesus was teaching that a follower probably would be a failure if he or she did not count the cost.

### **Things or Jesus (Luke 14:33)**

In this verse, Jesus told the people who wanted to follow Him that a person must be willing to “give up all that he has” (v. 33). Jesus’ followers might have to give up money, houses, or clothes. This does not mean that it is wrong to own things. However, a follower of Jesus must be willing to give them up if necessary. All Jesus had was the clothes He wore. In a rich country like America, many people are not willing to do this. Money is their God.

Do you love Jesus more than your family and your life? Are you willing to give up the things you have to in order to follow the plan of Jesus for your life? Have you counted the cost of following Him? If you can answer yes to these questions, you have what it takes to follow Jesus.

**Luke 14:25-33**

**25:** Many people followed Jesus. Then He turned around and said to them,

**26:** “If any man comes to Me and does not have much more love for Me than for his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be My follower.

**27:** If he does not carry his cross and follow Me, he cannot be My follower.

**28:** “If one of you wanted to build a large building, you would sit down first and think of how much money it would take to build it. You would see if you had enough money to finish it,

**29:** or when the base of the building is finished, you might see that you do not have enough money to finish it. Then all who would see it would make fun of you.

**30:** They would say, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’

**31:** “What if a king is going to war with another king? Will he not sit down first and decide if he is able to go with 10,000 men against the other king who is coming with 20,000 men?

**32:** Or, he will send a soldier to the other king while he is still a long way off. He will ask what can be done to have peace.

**33:** In the same way, whoever does not give up all that he has, cannot be My follower.



Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

Luke 15:8-32

### Memory Verse

“He was lost and now he is found.” (Luke 15:32b)

### Word List

**separated:** apart, not together

**reconciled:** brought together, made right with God

# The Lost Coin; The Father with Two Sons

## *Finding Joy in What Was Lost*

Why did Jesus tell this story? The proud religious law-keepers and the teachers of the Law were speaking against Jesus. They saw Him with tax collectors and sinners. Tax collectors were hated because they worked for the Romans and kept money for themselves. “Sinners” were those people who did not live the same strict life of the law-keepers. The religious leaders were angry at Jesus because He was friends with these people.

Jesus told His followers these stories to explain how much God loves us and wants to find those who are **separated** from Him. God has great joy when anyone returns to Him and leaves behind their sinful life. Another name for these picture-stories could be The Found Coin and The Found Son. This lesson is about losing, looking, and finding. It is about love and joy.

One time, before a trip to teach English in China, I lost my passport. I spent weeks looking for it. Finally, it was found in a box. What joy! I could now I could go and teach.

### **The God Who Seeks the Lost (Luke 15:8-12)**

A woman who had ten coins lost one of them. This one coin was worth what a person would get paid for a whole day’s work. It was very important to her. The story tells how hard she looked for the coin. She did nothing else until she found it. She lit a lamp. She swept the floor. When she finally found it, she invited her friends and neighbors to come share her joy.

Jesus said this is the kind of joy the angels have when one sinner is sorry for his sins and turns from them. God’s love seeks the lost. There is great joy when they return to Him.

As Christians, we are asked to search this hard for sinners.

**Things To  
Think About**

1. How can I have a right relationship with God?
2. Ask yourself this question: "Which brother am I most like?"
3. How can I welcome every person who comes to God by faith and not show jealousy?
4. What are some ways I can get rid of sin and show more love in my life?
5. Remember:  
Sin will always:
  - take us further than we wanted to go;
  - Keep us longer than we wanted to stay;
  - And cost us more than we wanted to pay.

We have joy when they are **reconciled** with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

**God Loves Us as We Are (Luke 15:11-24)**

A younger son asked his father to give him his part of the family riches. What the son asked was most unusual. Usually, riches were not given until after the father died. To ask for this money now was like the son was wishing for the father to be dead. A father was allowed by the law to give his riches, but no money could be spent until after his death.

This father gave the money to his son, and then allowed the son to do with it as he pleased. Those who listened to Jesus could not believe what they were hearing.

What did the son do with this money? He took it and went to another country. He wanted to enjoy life. He thought he could buy happiness. So he spent all the money by living wildly. He saved nothing. One day, he had nothing left.

Soon, he was hungry. But he had no money for food. He had to get a job, and all he could find was a job feeding pigs. No proper Jewish person wanted such a job. He was so hungry, he even ate the food of pigs. The son had been free to do what he wanted, but now his sin made him a slave.

He began to think about his life. This was the beginning for him to do what was right. He knew that his life was a failure. He knew his sorrow, unhappiness, and helplessness came from turning away from God. He did not want to be **separated** from God any longer.

It would not be long before the son would take the next step. He wanted to return to his father. The son decided he would tell his father that he had sinned and ask to be taken in and accepted. He knew that his sin was not just against his father, but also against God.

He turned from sin and turned to God. These are steps

which we can also take to be **reconciled** to God:

1. Know your sinfulness.
2. Confess your wrongs.
3. Ask to be accepted.

After the son decided to return home, he started the journey. He did not stay in the sinful place any longer. On the trip, he practiced what he would say to his father. But as he came closer to his home, he saw his father had been waiting for him to return. When the father saw the son, he ran and hugged the son. Even before the son could finish asking for forgiveness, the father called for a party to celebrate the son's return.

The father asked for the best coat, a ring, and shoes for his son. This coat may have belonged to the father. It showed the son now had honor again. The ring showed he had the power of being a member of the family. The shoes showed he was no longer a servant.

The father ordered his servants to cook a calf to feed all the neighbors. The father wanted everyone to join in the joy of the return of his son.

### **The Other Son**

Another part of this story is about the older son. He heard about the party for his younger brother. He became angry and jealous. He would not come to the

party, even when the father came outside and invited him. The older brother showed disrespect by not calling him, "Father." Still, the father showed his love for him, when he called him, "Son."

The older son showed envy and no love for his brother. Both sons were sinners and both needed their father.

God has called us to be His missionaries to spread His message of love to all—people who are like the younger brother and people who are like the older brother.

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### **Luke 15:8-32**

**8** "What if a woman has ten silver pieces of money and loses one of them? Does she not light a lamp and sweep the floor and look until she finds it?"

**9** When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together. She says to them, 'Be happy with me. I have found the piece of money I had lost.'

**10** I tell you, it is the same way among the angels of God. If one sinner is sorry for his sins and turns from them, the angels are very happy."

**11** And Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons.

**12** The younger son said to his father. 'Father, let me have the part of the family riches that will be coming to me.' Then the father divided all that he owned

between his two sons.

**13** Soon after that the younger son took all that had been given to him and went to another country far away. There he spent all he had on wild and foolish living.

**14** When all his money was spent, he was hungry. There was no food in the land.

**15** He went to work for a man in this far away country. His work was to feed pigs.

**16** He was so hungry he was ready to eat the outside part of the ears of the corn the pigs ate because no one gave him anything.

**17** “He began to think about what he had done. He said to himself, ‘My father pays many men who work for him. They have all the food they want and more than enough. I am about dead because I am so hungry.

**18** I will get up and go to my father. I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

**19** I am not good enough to be called your son. But may I be as one of the workmen you pay to work?’”

**20** “The son got up and went to his father. While he was yet a long way off, his father saw him. The father was full of loving-pity for him. He ran and threw his arms around him and kissed him.

**21** The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am not good enough to be called your son.’

**22** But the father said to the workmen he owned, ‘Hurry! Get the best coat and put it

on him. Put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet.

**23** Bring the calf that is fat and kill it. Let us eat and be glad.

**24** For my son was dead and now he is alive again. He was lost and now he is found. Let us eat and have a good time.’

**25** “The older son was out in the field. As he was coming near the house, he heard music and dancing.

**26** He called one of the servants and asked what was happening.

**27** The servant answered, ‘Your brother has come back and your father has killed the fat calf. Your brother is in the house and is well.’

**28** The older brother was angry and would not go into the house. His father went outside and asked him to come in.

**29** The older son said to his father, ‘All these many years I have served you. I have always obeyed what you said. But you never gave me a young goat so I could have a supper and a good time with my friends.

**30** But as soon as this son of yours came back, you killed the fat calf. And yet he wasted your money with bad women.’

**31** “The father said to him, ‘My son, you are with me all the time. All that I have is yours.

**32** It is right and good that we should have a good time and be glad. Your brother was dead and now he is alive again. He was lost and now he is found.’”



Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

Luke 16:1-13

### Memory Verse

“You cannot be faithful to God and to riches at the same time.” (Luke 16:13b)

### Word List

**manager:** someone in charge of a business; a boss. Example:

Someone who takes care of a store or land for someone else

**waste:** to use in a wrong way

# The Smart Manager

## *Using What We Have for God*

Some people read this picture-story and think Jesus was saying it is good to make money in a wrong way, so we can have what we need in this world. Jesus was teaching us something very different. He said Christians should use their riches for things which are eternal.

My husband’s father was a wonderful preacher. He used to say, “The only things from earth that will get to heaven are people—not our money. We must use our money to help people get to heaven.”

Jesus used this story of a **manager** who stole from his rich owner. This story teaches us to use our money in the best way. The best use of money is not to get richer. Jesus taught us to use everything we have for God’s Kingdom, which lasts forever.

First Timothy 6:10 says, “Some people have turned from the faith because of their love for money.” We should use our money for good and not let it take the place of God.

### **A Story To Make Us Think**

Look at Luke 16. Jesus had just told the stories of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. These show how much God loved all people. Jesus was now walking with His followers on the way to Jerusalem. Some religious law-keepers who “loved money” were also listening to Jesus (Luke 16:14).

Jesus wanted His followers to use money in the right way. Jesus did not teach that it was all right to do wrong things in business. Jesus wants His followers—then and now—to use all we are given for heavenly purposes, not for earthly use. Lesson 10 looks at the rest of this chapter and a story of how important it is to help those in need. This lesson helps us learn to use what we have for God.

**Things To**  
**Think About**

1. How often do you think about what you have as belonging just to you, rather than as a gift from God?
2. How can you use what you own so it is used for what will last forever?
3. Why should Christians be more honest in their work?

**Making the Story Clear (Luke 16:1-9)**

A rich man had a **manager** who worked for him. The **manager** took money from people who used the owner's land. Farmers paid to use land when they did not have enough money to buy their own land. When they grew something, part of it belonged to the land owner. The **manager** needed to be an honest man because he took care of so much money.

The rich man found out his **manager** was not taking care of his money and land in the right way. Perhaps the **manager** was using the money for himself. In this way, the **manager** reminds us of the son who left with his father's money and used it in the wrong way (Luke 15).

The rich man asked for a list of the money owed to him. He told the **manager** he could not work for him any more. The **manager** was no longer the boss of all the land.

What could he do? He knew he could not dig in the ground and work hard. He was too proud to ask or beg for money. He thought of a plan which would make him welcome in the homes of those who owed money to the rich man.

He called in all the people who owed money. The first man owed money for the oil from olive trees. The **manager** told him now he only owed half as much. That amount was about three years' pay for a daily worker. He told another person he only had to pay 80 bags of wheat instead of 100. That was 8 years of pay.

The rich man learned of the **manager's** actions. He decided the **manager** was wise. The rich man would receive the good will of those who now owed less money. Jesus said this is the way people in the world act. Sometimes they are wiser about taking care of themselves than His followers who knew about life that lasts forever.

The **manager** and the rich man could only see the

present time. They understood only what they could see. But Jesus' followers are to be "children of light" (Luke 16:8) who see beyond the present. Jesus calls us to be wise about the things which matter in eternity.

Jesus said to His followers, "Make friends for yourselves by using the riches of the world that are so often used in wrong ways. So when riches are a thing of the past, friends may receive you into a home that will be forever" (Luke 16:9).

The words "riches of the world" do not mean money that is earned in a dishonest way. Money is not good or bad. It is how money is used that makes it good or bad. Jesus said in this story that we are to use our money for things of heaven rather than things of this world.

The followers could use their money so others could hear about God. Then when they got to heaven, the new believers who had already died would be there to welcome them home.

### What We Can Learn

This story tells us how to live in the following ways:

- Money can be bad for those who love it too much.
- Christians should use money for things which last forever rather than for things of this world.

- Christians should be as wise as those of this world about how to make money. But it should be earned honestly.
- Christians should help those in need.
- Christians should look at this world with the eyes of heaven.
- Christians should love others, not money.
- Christians should always act the way Christ would act. We should never act in any sinful way in our work.

### Two Other Lessons (Luke 16:10-13)

Jesus closed this story with two more lessons. The first lesson is how important it is to be faithful servants of Christ.

"If you have not been faithful with riches of this world, who will trust you with true riches?" (Luke 16:11). Being faithful does not depend on how much we have, but what we do with it.

If followers **waste** what God gives them, how can God trust them with what is important? This includes money, talents, and time.

A second lesson is how important it is to be a true follower of Jesus. It is possible to be a follower of Jesus and have money, too. But it is not possible to serve both Jesus and money. Jesus cannot take second place in our lives. We can

only be a true servant of Jesus if we are loyal only to Him.

### **Luke 16:1-13**

**1** Jesus said to His followers, “There was a rich man who put a boss over his houses and lands. Someone told him that his boss was not using his riches in a right way.

**2** The rich man sent for the boss and said, ‘What is this I hear about you? Tell me what you have done with my things. You are not to be the boss of my houses and lands anymore.’

**3** “The boss said to himself, ‘What am I to do now? The owner of the houses and lands is taking my work away from me. I cannot dig in the ground for a living. I am too proud to ask for help.

**4** I know that I will do. I will make it so that when I lose this work I will be able to go to the homes of my friends.’

**5** “He sent for the people who owed the rich man. He asked the first one, ‘How much do you owe the owner?’

**6** The first man said, ‘One hundred barrels of oil.’ The boss said to him, ‘Take your bill. Sit down at once and change it to fifty.’

**7** He asked another one, ‘How much do you owe?’ He said, ‘One hundred bags of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and change it to eighty.’

**8** Then the rich man said that this sinful

boss had been wise to plan for himself for the days ahead. For the people of the world are wiser in their day than the children of light.

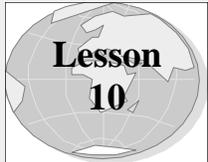
**9** “I tell you, make friends for yourselves by using the riches of the world that are so often used in wrong ways. So when riches are a thing of the past, friends may receive you into a home that will be forever.

**10** He that is faithful with little things is faithful with big things also. He that is not honest with little things is not honest with big things.

**11** If you have not been faithful with riches of this world, who will trust you with true riches?

**12** If you have not been faithful in that which belongs to another person, who will give you things to have as your own?

**13** No servant can have two bosses. He will hate the one and love the other. Or, he will be faithful to one and not faithful to the other. You cannot be faithful to God and to riches at the same time.”



Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### **Bible Text**

Luke 16:19-31

### **Memory Verse**

“For sure, I tell you,  
because you did it to  
one of the least of My  
brothers, you have  
done it to Me.”  
(Matthew 25:40)

### **Word List**

**beggar:** a person who  
asks for food or  
money from others

**hell:** the place of  
punishment that lasts  
forever for those who  
do not obey God

# Lazarus and the Six Brothers

## *Helping People in Need*

Do we act differently around people who have a lot of money? Do we treat them with more respect than others? Do we think they are better than us? In this picture-story, Jesus teaches us what makes a person truly successful. This story teaches us how we are to see others in need.

I once took a picture in New York City of a park bench. Two very different men were sitting on the park bench—much like the men in this story. One man was wearing the right kind of clothes and was reading a newspaper. At the other end of the bench sat a man with torn clothes, old shoes, and no socks. He needed a haircut. He was not dressed well. When I looked at the picture, I thought of this picture-story.

Today we have people who have much and also many people who do not know what they will eat next or where they will sleep. This story teaches us how we are to treat God’s children—all of them.

### **Poor People Who are Rich**

#### **and Rich People Who are Poor (Luke 16:19-21)**

Chapter 16 in Luke begins and ends with stories about money. The last lesson tells of the wise manager. Jesus knew how easy it is for us to be led in the wrong direction by a love for money. He knows it can keep us from seeing needs around us.

This picture story helps us think about people in a different way. The ones who were listening to Jesus thought that having a lot of money was the way God showed He was pleased with that person. They also thought that people were poor because they were being punished by God.

Earlier the law-keepers who had money had made fun of Jesus for His teachings (Luke 6:14). This showed that they had

**Things To  
Think About**

1. As you go to church, work, or school, do you see people in need?
2. Do you feel like there is a wall between you and people in need? What ways can you break down that wall and meet their needs in Jesus' name?
3. What have you ever done to help people in need? What did you learn from the people to whom you ministered?
4. Does our world say we are successful if we have a lot of money? How is a servant for God more successful?

not learned from Jesus. He taught that anything we have is given to us from God to be used to help others. To use what we have in any other way shows that what we have is more important to us than God is. Our actions show we are serving money rather than God.

It is hard to imagine two men who are more different than the rich man and Lazarus. The rich man showed off his wealth in the way he dressed, the way he ate, and how others served him whenever he called.

Everyone who knew him would think he was happy. He seemed to have it all. He even gave left-over food from his big parties to feed the poor people who lived by his gate.

The other man was Lazarus. Not only poor, he was sick. No person would touch him. Only the dogs would lick his sores. At this time, dogs were thought of as unclean. He received leftover food from the rich man.

Lazarus was the kind of man most people would try not to see or think about. Some people might think he should be moved "someplace else" so no one would have to look at him. If anyone saw him, they would have just thought that he was being punished by God.

Those who were listening to Jesus might have wondered why He was telling this story. Everyone believed being rich meant God loved you. They also believed being poor was a sure sign of sin.

**Death—Where Everyone Meets (Luke 16:22-26)**

Jesus continued with the story. Jesus said there is one way we are all alike. We may not all suffer in this life. We may build walls that keep other people and their problems away from us. But in the end, we will all die.

When Lazarus died, angels took him to sit with Abraham, the great man of faith in the Old Testament. Lazarus' name means "whom God has helped." The rich

man also died. He was buried by hired men.

The rich man was in **hell** and asked for Lazarus to come and serve his needs. He had always told people what to do. Now it was too late for that. Jesus said to let the greatest among you be as the least. Let the leader be as the one who cares for others (Luke 22:26b). We find out how poor the rich man really was.

### **The Truth is Known (Luke 16:27-31)**

In his earthly life, Lazarus had been a **beggar**. Now the rich man is the one who begs for water and for Abraham to send someone to warn his brothers about the danger they are in. He is told that they would not listen, even if someone returned from the dead.

This reminds us we all understand enough truth to know what is right. “Men know about God. He has made it plain to them. Men cannot say they do not know about God. From the beginning of the world, men could see what God is like through the things He has made. This shows His power that lasts forever. It shows that He is God” (Romans 1:19-20).

### **What We Can Learn**

Do you agree with the following?  
“The opposite of love is not hate. The opposite of love is not caring.”

God, Who made this whole world, loves each person enough to send His Son to save us from the punishment of sin.

We sometimes look down on others who are different. They may be poor, lonely, homeless, or in prison. Perhaps they are not of the same racial group, religion, or make the same amount of money. We do not hate them. We just act as if they are not there.

We separate ourselves from them so we do not see them or feel their hurts or think of ourselves as being responsible for helping them.

Some have learned the lesson of this story. Churches have seen homeless people begging on street corners and poor children who are hungry. These churches have started ministries such as clothing closets, food pantries, and job training. Church members learn how to see what causes other people to be poor.

At another time, Jesus taught what will happen to those who die and are judged. Some had helped others and some had not. They asked, “Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger? When did we see You without clothes or sick or in prison and did not care for You?” Then He will say to them, ‘For sure, I tell you, because you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me’ ” (Matthew 25:44-45).

**Luke 16:19-31**

**19** “There was a rich man who dressed in purple linen clothes everyday. He lived like a king would live with the best of food.

**20** There was a poor man named Lazarus who had many bad sores. He was put by the door of the rich man.

**21** He wanted the pieces of food that fell from the table of the rich man. Even dogs came and licked his sores.

**22** “The poor man who asked for food died. He was taken by the angels into the arms of Abraham. The rich man died also and was buried.

**23** In hell the rich man was in much pain. He looked up and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus beside him.

**24** He cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, take pity on me. Send Lazarus. Let him put the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in much pain in this fire.’

**25** Abraham said, ‘My son, do not forget that when you were living you had your good things. Lazarus had bad things. Now he is well cared for. You are in pain.

**26** And more than all this, there is a big deep place between us. No one from here can go there even if he wanted to go. No one can come from there.’

**27** “Then the rich man said, ‘Father, then I beg you to send Lazarus to my father’s house.

**28** I have five brothers. Let him tell them of

these things, or they will come to this place of much pain also.’

**29** Abraham said, ‘They have the Writings of Moses and of the early preachers. Let them hear what they say.’

**30** But the rich man said, ‘No, Father Abraham. If someone goes to them from the dead, they will be sorry for their sins and turn from them.’

**31** Abraham said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and to the early preachers, they will not listen if someone is raised from the dead.’ ”



Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

Luke 17:7-10

### Memory Verse

“When you do everything you have been told to do, you must say, ‘We are not any special servants. We have done only what we should have done.’” (Luke 17:10)

### Word List

**reward:** something given to someone who has done a good service

**duty:** what we should do because it is right

**slaves:** a person owned by another person

# The Unrewarded Servant

## *Learning that God Owes Us Nothing*

Have you ever known anyone who did things for God and wanted everyone to see what they had done? They want a **reward** for doing what they should. Do you also feel you should be **rewarded** or thanked for doing the right things?

Have you ever known someone who served God faithfully, but when something bad happened to them, they became angry with God? They thought they had done enough good to make God give them an easy way of life.

This picture-story from Jesus is told by asking questions. The questions have an answer which everyone knows. This is a way of teaching that makes us think.

If we think we should be **rewarded** for doing the right thing, we begin to think we can do the right things and buy or earn our way into heaven. If God is the Lord of us all and we are His servants on this earth, then we will find our greatest joy in life by serving Him, not in doing what makes us happy. When bad things happen, we must not lose our faith.

Remember what a picture-story is. It is a way of teaching by using ordinary things around us which makes one point. We do not need to make every part of the story a teaching, just the one main point.

### **What is a Servant? (Luke 17:7)**

In the time of this story, people owned other people as **slaves**. Jesus was not saying it was right to have **slaves**. Jesus told this story about life as it was then to help His listeners understand God. He wanted His followers to know what a Christian’s **duty** is. He was giving a lesson about a way of life people knew. The Old Testament explained rules about how to treat those who sold themselves as **slaves** when they could find

**Things To**  
**Think About**

1. What do you think God owes you for your acts of goodness and kindness?
2. In what ways is God like the master in this picture-story? In what ways is He very different?
3. In Mark 10:44, Jesus said, “Whoever wants to be first among you, must be the one who is owned and cares for all.” How can you be *owned* and *care for all*?
4. Make a list of ways your church helps others. What are some other ways you, your class, or your church could do more to be servants to others?

no other job.

**Slaves** could be bought, sold, or used as a promise to pay a debt. A parent could also give his **slaves** to his children when the parent died. **Slaves** had very few rights and had to do what the master said.

Some people like to use everyday language to speak of God. They call God “the Man upstairs.” This is not a way to show honor or respect to God.

When Isaiah received a call from God to serve him, he said, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of All” (Isaiah 6:3). He knew God is a God who is worthy of our awe. Isaiah also saw himself as an unclean man.

Jesus told this story of the difference between a master and a **slave** to help us see we should not feel sorry for ourselves. He spoke of masters and servants. We can think of others who do a job for no **reward**.

- *Parents* spend much time taking care of their children. They do this gladly because they love their children.

- *Soldiers* have hard jobs. They must do their work when it is not easy. They do it not just to get awards and honors, but because it is their **duty**.

The Christian who works for the Lord must not think only of his or her **reward**. We are not **slaves**, but willing servants of the good King. We want to be like Jesus Who gave us the example of a good servant. He said all who followed Him should “forget himself. He must take up his cross and follow Me” (Mathew 16:24).

**The Problem with Keeping Parts of our Lives from God**  
**(Luke 17:8-9)**

Sometimes we give God only a part of our lives. We want to make the decisions about the other parts for ourselves. No servant in Jesus’ day could do this. If the

servant had worked all day in the fields and came in very tired, he still must do what the master wanted.

Do we think we should do less? If we say that Jesus is Lord, and we are followers of His, we are always at work for Him. Jesus would never say, "This afternoon, I am taking a break from My work as God's Son."

Jesus gave us His example. He told us, "Whoever wants to be first among you, let him be your servant. For the Son of Man came not to be cared for. He came to care for others. He came to give His life so that many could be bought by His blood and made free from the punishment of sin" (Matthew 20:27-28).

### **We Have Done Only What We Should Have Done (Luke 17:10)**

At a funeral service, many people said, "If anyone should go to heaven, this woman should. She has done so many good things for others."

What is wrong with this? Of course, it is not wrong to do good for others. But no one goes to heaven because of the good things they do. We go to heaven because of our faith in Jesus Who died for our sins.

We should be more like a man in a recent newspaper story. He was driving his truck when he saw smoke coming

from a house. He stopped the truck and went inside to see if he could help anyone get out. He was burned badly in the fire. People called him a hero. He said, "Oh no, I was just doing what anyone would do."

If Jesus is our Lord and Master, then we do everything we can for others. We know we serve God by serving others. Jesus said, "We are not any special servants. We have done only what we should have done" (Luke 17:10).

### **What We Can Learn**

Jesus was not telling masters how they should treat their servants. His lesson for us is God does not owe us anything for our good works.

Instead God blesses us because He is different than this master. He loves us freely. He loved us enough to send His Son to die for our sins.

We serve God because we are so grateful He has made us His sons and daughters. We do not serve because we are trying to win God's blessing.

Paul reminds us, "For by His loving-favor you have been saved from the punishment of sin though faith. It is not by anything you have done. It is a gift of God. It is not given to you because you worked for it. If you could work for it, you would be proud" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

As followers of Christ, we should never be proud of what we do for Him. He

has done everything for us. We have only done a little for Him.

### Read and Learn

If we take the message of this story into our lives, we might need to do some things differently. Think about this:

- Study what the Bible says about God as the One Who made everything in the world.
- Think about how we were made by God and not by ourselves.
- Learn to be humble to others.
- Look for ways to serve others each day.
- Give praise and worship to God Who gives us amazing grace.

### Luke 17:7-10

**7** “What if you owned a servant who was working in the field or taking care of sheep? Would you say to him when he came in from his work, ‘Come and sit down to eat?’

**8** No, instead you would say, ‘Get my supper ready. Dress yourself and care for me until I am through eating and drinking. Then you can eat and drink.’

**9** Does the servant get thanks for doing what he was told to do? I am sure he does not.

**10** It is the same with you also. When you do everything you have been told to do, you must say, ‘We are not any special servants. We have done only what we should have done.’”



Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

Luke 18:1-8

### Memory Verse

“Will not God make the things that are right come to His chosen people who cry day and night to Him?” (Luke 18:7)

### Word List

**judge:** the person who is head of the court

**unfit judge, bad**

**judge:** a judge who does not do a good job

**widow:** a woman whose husband had died

# The Widow and the Unfit Judge

## *Praying and Not Losing Heart*

In other picture-stories, Jesus taught how to treat people around us who are having troubles. Just before telling this story, Jesus answered questions about when the holy nation of God was coming. In this lesson, Jesus taught the followers some things they needed to know for the future. They were not to give up. They were to keep praying.

This story is like the story in Lesson 3. Both lessons teach us to be bold and keep praying when there is great need.

Jesus told a story about what might take place in a law court in a small town. The town had only one **judge**. Perhaps the **judge** was someone from the village. Perhaps he was given money to make decisions the way certain people wanted. For whatever reason, he is an **unfit judge**.

### **The People**

This story has only two persons—the **judge** and the person who has come asking for help. In Jewish times, the **judge** was the one who was supposed to make fair decisions for people. He was also supposed to help those who had no one else to help them. These were the **widows**, children with no parents, those who were from other countries, and those who were poor. He was to care for people the way God cared for people.

But this **judge** was not the right kind of **judge**. He was an **unfit judge**. He did not fear God, and he did not treat people fairly. He did not act the way God would have wanted him to act.

During this time, life was very hard for a woman whose husband died. A woman was considered the property of her husband. If her husband died, she did not receive his money. All he owned went to his sons or brothers.

In this story we find a **widow** who had no one to help her.

**Things To**  
**Think About**

1. Why do you feel Jesus reminded us to pray without giving up?
2. Have you ever had a time when your prayers were answered, but only after months or years of praying? Do you tell others about this so that they can learn?
3. Have you known someone who was a person who kept on praying without giving up?
4. How is prayer like being a partner with God?

She was a picture of those people in Israel who were the most needy. This **widow** kept asking the **judge** for help from those who were against her. She did not ask for them to be punished. She asked for help. In this story she is like followers of Jesus who needed help from God.

The story has one main message: “We need to pray.”

**The Judge’s Answer (Luke 18:4-5)**

When Jesus’ followers heard this story, they might have thought it was a story about **bad judges**. But Jesus told them the important lesson before He began the story: “Don’t give up, be brave, keep on even when there are those who are against you.” He wanted His followers to remember to pray.

We can learn from the way the **judge** answered the **widow**. Even the **bad judge** who did not respect people or honor God still gave an answer to the **widow** who kept asking. Perhaps the **judge** was afraid people would think badly of him if he did not give the **widow** an answer. How much more will the loving and good God Who made the earth give an answer to His people when they keep on asking!

In Luke 18:5, the **judge** said he would give the woman what was rightfully hers. It is not always easy for people today to get what is right. In the days of the **widow**, it was even more difficult. In this story, the **widow** got what was right, even from a **bad judge**.

**Jesus Tells Us What to Learn (Luke 18:6-8)**

Two more times, Jesus told us that God will help us. We do not have to worry about getting what is right for ourselves. God sees all things clearly. We can have faith in Him.

Think about all the people who have read these words and learned to ask God for help. It was soon after Jesus said



**Luke 18:1-8**

**1** Jesus told a picture-story to show that men should always pray and not give up.

**2** He said, "There was a man in one of the cities who was head of the court. His work was to say if a person was guilty or not. This man was not afraid of God. He did not respect any man.

**3** In that city there was a woman whose husband had died. She kept coming to him and saying, 'Help me! There is someone who is working against me.'

**4** For awhile he would not help her. Then he began to think, 'I am not afraid of God and I do not respect any man.

**5** But I will see that this woman whose husband has died gets her rights because I get tired of her coming all the time.'"

**6** Then the Lord said, "Listen to the words of the sinful man who is head of the court.

**7** Will not God make the things that are right come to His chosen people who cry day and night to Him? Will He wait a long time to help them?

**8** I tell you, He will be quick to help them. But when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"



Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

Luke 18:9-14

### Memory Verse

“God, have pity on me! I am a sinner!”  
(Luke 18:13b)

### Word List

**temple:** house of God

**tithing:** giving one-tenth of what you have to God

**fast:** go without food to pray better

# Two People at Prayer

## *Knowing God in a True Way*

A young woman came one summer to help some missionaries work with children. She stayed up late each night watching a TV preacher. When she worked with the children the next day, she was too tired to give them the love they needed. She thought she was being religious by watching these programs on TV, but she showed no love.

Jesus told this picture-story to people who trusted in themselves and thought they were right with God. These people did not think well of other men. We can learn this from Jesus' words: We should not consider ourselves better than another. A true relationship with God means we ask Him for mercy. We do not try to make ourselves look better by making others look bad.

Jesus used the story of two kinds of people—proud religious-law keepers and tax collectors—to teach how we should think about ourselves and how we should act towards others. This is a story about the differences in two men who went to pray. It is about the differences in their two prayers and the differences in the two answers to their prayers.

### **Two Men Went to Pray (Luke 18:9-14)**

Jesus' teachings make us stop and think. He wants us to look at our faith and look at people in new ways. What we think of as success and failure might not be correct.

Those who lived in Jerusalem often went to the outside area of the **Temple** each day for prayer times. Two very different men went to pray. They were opposite kinds of people. One was a proud religious law keeper. He carefully kept all the religious rules.

The other man was a tax collector. He was a man hated by all. He was working for the Romans who ruled the country. The

**Things To  
Think About**

1. What kept the proud religious law-keeper from praying a prayer that sent him home forgiven?
2. Why did the tax collector go home with his sins forgiven?
3. How can we keep from being proud?
4. How many of the following can you do:
  - Take time to listen to your own prayers.
  - Tell God what you have done wrong.
  - Do not think of yourself as better than others.
  - Treat others with the same kindness that God showed to the tax collector.
  - Show joy that you know God's love.

Romans were the enemy. He paid the Romans so he could collect their taxes. He would make people pay extra and would keep that for himself. Many tax collectors became rich by taking money from their own people.

These two people were very different. One was respected and would be welcome at any gathering for prayer. The other would be considered unclean and would not be welcome in most homes. But they were both at the same place at the same time. They were both at prayer.

**Two Prayers—One Ending (Luke 18:11-14)**

Luke tells what Jesus said about the men who went to pray. He tells how they stood and what they said.

The proud religious law-keeper did not stand with others. The words from the Bible say that he “prayed to himself.” Read these verses and count the number of words he used. Also count how many times he referred to himself. He tells God and all who are listening how much better he is than any others. He asked for nothing. Perhaps he thought he needed nothing from God because he was good enough.

He did many right things. He was most careful about **tithing**. He went without eating on the market days of Monday and Thursday so more people would see him. Jesus said when we **fast** we should not make our faces sad so people will see us, but no one should know. “Then your Father Who sees in secret will pay you” (Matthew 6:18).

The tax collector was different. He seemed to be a man very concerned about his wrong-doing. He did not lift his hands or even his eyes toward heaven like many others did. He stood a long way off. Perhaps he stood in a corner where he would not be close to others. He beat on his chest to show his sorrow. He did not say he was good. All he could do was ask God for help.

Everyone who heard this picture-story understood the

story. The story is about the two kinds of prayers and two kinds of hearts. Then Jesus said something which really surprised them. He told them it was the tax collector who went home forgiven by God (Luke 18:14).

Perhaps they asked themselves, “What is wrong with the law-keeper’s prayer life?” They learned God is not pleased when we think too much of ourselves and look down on others. In Micah 6:8, we learn we are to “do what is fair and to love kindness, and to walk without pride with your God.”

The tax collector’s prayer showed he was humble and honest. He knew he needed God. Since he asked God for help, God said that he was forgiven. He was made right with God. It was nothing he could do himself.

God knows we cannot try hard enough to be good. We must say we have sinned and trust Him to forgive us. This is why the tax collector went home with his sins forgiven. He asked for God to have pity on him. His prayer was answered.

### **What We Can Learn**

#### **(Luke 18:14)**

We can learn from this story about the proud law-keeper and the humble tax collector. Jesus reminds us “whoever makes himself look more important than he is will find out how little he is worth.

Whoever does not try to honor himself will be made important.”

Jesus is talking about our pride, too. Do we hear this story and think how much better we are than the law-keeper? If so, we are like him. Do we secretly feel God is lucky to have us on His side?

Too many times we are like the law-keeper. We are blind to our own sins but look down on others. But Jesus treated every person the same.

Paul wrote about the fruit that comes from having the Holy Spirit in our lives— “love, joy, peace, not giving up, being kind, being good, having faith, being gentle, and being boss over our own desires” (Galatians 5:22-23).

We cannot put our trust in our own goodness rather than the goodness that God gives us when we ask Him.

We learn from these two prayers that we must tell God our sins and trust Him to make us right with Him through our faith in Jesus.

**Luke 18:9-14**

**9** Jesus told another picture-story to some people who trusted in themselves and thought they were right with God. These people did not think well of other men.

**10** Jesus said, “Two men went up to the house of God to pray. One of them was a proud religious law-keeper. The other was a man who gathered taxes.

**11** The proud religious law-keeper stood and prayed to himself like this, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men. I am not like those who steal. I am not like those who do things that are wrong. I am not like those who do sex sins. I am not even like this tax-gatherer.

**12** I go without food two times a week so I can pray better. I give one-tenth part of the money I earn.’

**13** But the man who gathered taxes stood a long way off. He would not even lift his eyes to heaven. But he hit himself on his chest and said, ‘God, have pity on me! I am a sinner!’

**14** I tell you, this man went back to his house forgiven, and not the other man. For whoever makes himself look more important than he is will find out how little he is worth. Whoever does not try to honor himself will be made important.”



Adult Bible Study in  
Basic English

### Bible Text

Luke 24:13-35

### Memory Verse

“For sure the Lord is risen and was seen by Simon.” (Luke 24:34)

### Word List

**traveler:** someone on a trip or a journey

**resurrection:** life after death. Jesus showed He was God’s Son by His power over death.

**Jesus Christ:** the name *Jesus* means One Who saves. The title *Christ* means Lord.

# Easter Lesson

## *Knowing the Risen Christ*

Because we know Christ has risen, we want to tell others. This is the most important news we could ever share. This lesson is not one of Jesus’ picture-stories which He told to help us learn. Luke wrote this about what really happened on a Sunday evening to two men after Jesus death and **resurrection**.

### **Two Men and a Journey (Luke 24:13-14)**

Some people today talk about Jesus and say He was only a good teacher. Others talk about Jesus’ words of love and kindness. But they do not believe He died on the cross, was buried in a tomb, and arose from the dead. They ask, “If Jesus is risen, where is He? Why do we not see Him in the world? If we could see, we might believe.”

Now think about the two men who were walking down the dusty road from Jerusalem to the small village called Emmaus. They were sad because of Jesus’ death on the cross. They had heard He had risen, but they could not believe it was true.

We know the name of only one of the men—Cleopas. This is the only time we find his name in the Bible. These two men knew about all that happened to Jesus in His final week. We do not know what they talked about as they walked. Many people feel sorrow, disappointment, even fear and anger when someone they know dies. Perhaps this is how they felt.

### **Jesus Comes to Walk with the Two (Luke 24:15-27)**

Luke tells how the two men were talking about what had happened the past week. Then someone began to walk with them. The men could not see it was Jesus Who had joined them on the road.

Jesus asked them what they were talking about. This

**Things To**  
**Think About**

1. What is most important about Jesus?
2. Why did the two men not know who Jesus was when He walked with them?
3. Are there people today who do not see Jesus as the Christ?
4. What can you do to help others believe Jesus is alive?
5. What helped you know and believe Jesus is God's Son?

question stopped them in the road. How could anyone not know the things that had happened the past week? "Are you the only one in Jerusalem that has not heard?" It was all they had thought about!

They then told Jesus the things that had happened. They spoke of the mighty works Jesus had done. They told of the leaders who sent Jesus to die on the cross. They said they had hoped Jesus was the Promised One Who would free Israel from Rome's rule. They knew He had died. They even told how the women said Jesus was now alive. Others had gone to look at the grave and had not found Jesus there.

After Jesus heard them speak, He said, "You foolish men. How slow you are to believe what the early preachers have said. Did not Christ have to go through these hard things to come into His shining-greatness?" (Luke 24:25-26).

These two had spoken about "**Jesus**," the man. The early preachers had called him "**Christ**," the Lord.

Then Jesus taught them from the words of Moses and the early preachers. He told them what the Bible said about His own life. Still they did not know it was Jesus Who was talking to them.

**Broken Bread and Open Eyes**  
**(Luke 24:28-32)**

When the two **travelers** came to Emmaus, the One Who traveled with them walked ahead of them as if He were going on. We know God goes ahead of us as He works with us, preparing the way and waiting to be invited to join us.

It was the custom of the time to invite travelers to eat with you. So they sat together to eat. Jesus "took the bread and gave thanks and broke it. Then He gave it to them" (Luke 24:30). At this time, their eyes were opened and they knew it was Jesus Who had been walking with them. Jesus was alive!

We are not sure how they saw that it was Jesus. Perhaps it was when He prayed. Maybe it was the words He used. Some say it was when He broke the bread and they saw the marks from the nails in His hands. We know Thomas believed when he saw Jesus' hands.

Luke just tells us it was while they were eating. Remember they had eaten with Jesus a few nights earlier at the first Lord's Supper. "Then Jesus took bread and gave thanks and broke it in pieces. He gave it to them saying, 'This is My body which is given for you. Do this to remember Me'" (Luke 22:19).

As soon as they saw it was Jesus, He was gone from them. But their hearts were full of joy.

### **Telling What They Learned (Luke 24:33-35)**

What did they do next? They went to find others who had heard the news that Jesus was alive. They walked back to Jerusalem that very evening. They wanted others to know what had happened to them. This is what Christians always want to do—tell others this Good News. Jesus is alive!

What did they hear from the other followers? "For sure the Lord is risen." The sadness and confusion of the earlier verses changed to joy and certainty.

### **What We Can Learn from the Resurrection of Jesus**

Have you ever stopped to think how important one day can be to all people? The day Jesus arose from the dead is the day that changed the world. God had sent His Son to save the world from sin. Because Jesus took our sins on the cross, we can know God. Because He is alive, we can be saved from our sins.

The most important thing we can say to people is that Jesus was dead, but now He is alive. In His time, many died on crosses, but we do not know their names. We know about Jesus because of His resurrection.

### **Luke 24:13-35**

**13** That same day two of His followers were going to the town of Emmaus. It was about a two-hour walk from Jerusalem.

**14** They talked of all these things that had happened.

**15** While they were talking together, Jesus Himself came and walked along with them.

**16** Something kept their eyes from seeing Who He was.

**17** He said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk?" They stood still and looked sad.

**18** One of them, whose name was Cleopas,

said to Him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who has not heard of the things that have happened here these days."

**19** Jesus said to them, "What things?" They answered, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth. He was the great One Who spoke for God. He did powerful works and spoke powerful words in the sight of God and the people.

**20** And the religious leaders and the leaders of the people gave Him over to be killed and nailed Him to a cross.

**21** We were hoping He was the One Who was going to make the Jewish people free. But it was three days ago when these things happened.

**22** "Some of the women of our group have surprised us and made us wonder. They went to the grave early this morning.

**23** They did not find His body. They came back saying they had seen angels in a special dream who said that He was alive.

**24** Some of those who were with us went to the grave and found it as the women had said. But they did not see Him."

**25** Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish men. How slow you are to believe what the early preachers have said.

**26** Did not Christ have to go through these hard things to come into His shining-greatness?"

**27** Jesus kept on telling them what Moses and all the early preachers had said about

Him in the Holy Writings.

**28** When they came to the town where they were going, Jesus acted as if He were going farther.

**29** But they said to Him, "Stay with us. It will soon be evening. The day is about over." He went in to stay with them.

**30** As He sat at the table with the, He took the bread and gave thanks and broke it. Then He gave it to them.

**31** And their eyes were opened and they knew Him. Then He left them and could not be seen.

**32** They said to each other, "Were not our hearts filled with joy when He talked to us on the road about what the Holy Writings said?"

**33** Then they got up at once and went back to Jerusalem. They found the eleven followers together and others with them.

**34** They said, "For sure the Lord is risen and was seen by Simon."

**35** Then they told what had happened on the road and how they came to know Him when He broke the bread.