



LUKE

FOURTH
STREAM
FINDING HOPE

LUKE

Man Suffers

The Servant is...

| GIVING | SUFFERING |
|---|--|
| Preparing...1:80; 2:26,52 Ministering...4:14-20; 7:26; 8:25 Instructing...10:38-42; 19:11 | 19:28,39-42; 22:41-44 Overcoming...24:45-53 |
| 1-19 | 19-24 |

"To seek and to save that which is lost" 19:10

Welcome to the book of Luke!

To begin your study of Luke, meditate on the book's content represented in the overview chart above. What are the two major sections of the book? How does each section give information that relates to the purpose of the book? In chapters 1-19 we see a preview of Christ's suffering. In 19-24, we see the pain of His suffering as He "lays down His life for His friends."

Luke gives us a faithful chronological view of the events of the Jesus' life. We receive deep insight into His suffering as we consider the events of His death (19-23). Only Luke portrays the intensity of Christ's experience in the garden of Gethsemane. Two key verses are prominent. For chapters 1-19 we have chosen 9:44 reflecting the message of Christ's submission and humiliation. For 19-24 we have chosen 19:10 reflecting God's reasons behind Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

The Writer and Setting

The writer of this third Gospel was Luke, the doctor (Colossians 4:14), Paul's companion (Acts 16:10-24; 2 Timothy 4:11), and the only non-Jewish (gentile) writer of the New Testament. He is also the writer of the book of Acts making him the most prolific New Testament writer. He was possibly with Paul at the time of his death as a martyr (2 Timothy 4:11). It was probably written around 60 A.D., possibly during Paul's imprisonment in Caesarea. (Acts 24:27).

Why the book of Luke?

1. To come to appreciate even more the Son of Man who is able to "sympathize with our weaknesses since He was tempted in all things as we are, yet He was without sin." (Hebrews 4:15)
2. Luke's Gospel has a strong emphasis on the prayer relationship of Christ with His Father. This stresses His dependency as a man on His Father's help (3:21; 5:16; 6:12-13; 9:18). Jesus sets an example for the believer in the area of being dependent upon God. If Jesus the Son of Man needed to be dependent on the Father, how much more should we!?

Multiple purposes in Luke

The first and most obvious purpose of Luke's gospel is an historical one: to present an accurate account of the facts about the life of Christ. "Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the Word have handed them down to us, it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus, so that you might know the exact truth about the things you have been taught." (Luke 1:1-4).

The second purpose of Luke's gospel is a spiritual one: To present an accurate account of Jesus as the perfect God-Man who after a perfect ministry, provided a perfect salvation for imperfect humanity. This purpose is clearly seen in the key verse, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10)

The third purpose for the writing of the book was a personal one: So that Theophilus may "know the certainty of those things in which you have been instructed" (1:4). Theophilus was apparently a high official of some sort, because the word which is translated 'most excellent' (1:3) is used elsewhere in the New Testament only of governors (Acts 23:26; 26:25). The book of Acts was addressed to this same man (Acts 1:1).

Twenty-six times the name "Son of Man" is found in Luke. This phrase emphasizes the humanity of Christ just as "Son of God" focuses His Godness and "Son of David" emphasizes His Kingship. It has been said that Jesus became the Son of Man in order to make the sons of men into sons of God.

Open your heart as you read!

The Lord Jesus is our King. Do you present your heart as an offering to Him? He has the right to rule and reign because He buys us back from death. Is there any reason we should not bow before the One who does something so huge for us? Thank God for the access we have to the Father, brought about through the obedient death and miraculous resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ!

In Focus

Matthew opens with a revelation of Jesus Christ as King and closes with our heart response of testifying and following. Mark opens with a revelation of God through miracles and closes with reproach for the disciples hard-hearted faith (16:14). Luke reviews in detail the events of Christ's human birth and closes with burning hearts responsive to the presence of the risen Christ (24:32, 44, 45). Matthew reveals true authority to rule (7:28,29; 28:18) and Mark focuses true authority to reign (3:22-30; 4:41). Luke reveals Christ's authority to buy back souls from eternal death (Hebrews 4:14-16)!

The Sacrifice is Prepared!

Read Chapters 1-4

| Chapter | Title | Key Verse |
|---------|-------|-----------|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |

KEY QUESTIONS

Chapter 1

1. What was the goal of John the Baptist's ministry and why was it necessary?
2. What were the differences between the questions of Mary and Zacharias?
How were they responded to differently and why?
3. Note the various emotions that Mary experiences as these chapters unfold (1:29; etc.).

Chapter 2

As you read chapter two, make a list of what you feel to be the "signs" that are given. How do each of these signs prepare the earth for the Lord's first coming? With which participant in these incredible events do you most identify?

Chapter 3

1. What are the chief differences between the message of John the Baptist and Jesus?
In what ways are they similar? How do they compliment one another?
2. How does this family tree (genealogy) differ from the one found in Matthew and what do you think is the purpose behind the differences?

Chapter 4

1. How does the temptation of Jesus compare with that of Adam and Eve in the garden?
In what specific ways did Jesus defend against it?
2. Compare Isaiah 61:1,2. Why did Jesus quit reading where He did?
Why were the Jews so enraged by the account of Naaman the Syrian?

My thoughts about my own preparation for service:

The Sacrifice Gives Himself!

Read Chapters 5-8

| Chapter | Title | Key Verse |
|---------|-------|-----------|
| 5 | | |
| 6 | | |
| 7 | | |
| 8 | | |

Chapter 5

1. What do you learn about serving God and helping others from Jesus and the fishing expedition in verses 1-11? How did the disciples respond to the challenge?
2. What did Jesus mean by His statement in verses 31, 32?
3. There is a curious phrase in verse 17. What do you think it is, why would Luke use it, and what do you think it meant?

Chapter 6

Once again, we encounter the so-called "be-attitudes".

How do these differ from the account in Matthew 5?

What other teaching is located with this account of the beatitudes, and why do you think it is placed where it is?

Chapter 7

1. In what ways does the Centurion's response to Jesus reflect Christ's teachings in the "be-attitudes"?
2. There are several movements in this chapter that involve several characters. The Centurion, the Widow of Nain, John the Baptist, and the Sinner-woman with the perfume occur in succession. What are the common threads in this chapter?

Chapter 8

Here we re-explore some of the familiar territory of Mark. What do you think Jesus means in verse 18 when He says, "take care how you listen," and how does it relate to the events and teachings of this chapter?

WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

You and I are to grow strong in spirit and in favor with God and men, just as Jesus did! Read Hebrews 5:11-14 and Ephesians 4:13-16. Reflect on your spiritual walk. In what ways do you see the strength of the Spirit exhibited in your life?

My thoughts on the ways I give myself to others for the sake of Christ:

The Sacrifice Instructs!

Read Chapters 9-13

| Chapter | Title | Key Verse |
|---------|-------|-----------|
| 9 | | |
| 10 | | |
| 11 | | |
| 12 | | |
| 13 | | |

Chapter 9

1. What feelings do you think the disciples experienced as they were sent out?
 2. What was Jesus' purpose in sending them out?
 3. What new pressures do you think this experience put on the disciples?
 4. What do you learn about Jesus' prayer life from this chapter?
- Why was prayer such an integral part of Christ's life (read Hebrews 5:7-8)?

Chapter 10

1. What is meant by the phrase "the kingdom of God has come near you?"
2. What related issue is addressed in the disciples (17-20), the lawyer (25-37), and Mary and Martha (38-42)?

Chapter 11

1. What was evil about seeking a sign?
2. What is the key of knowledge mentioned in the context of verse 52?

Chapter 12

1. What was Jesus' answer to Peter's question in verse 41?
2. What do we learn about prayer in this chapter?

Chapter 13

1. What was the source of Jesus' conflict with the religious leaders?
2. What feelings do we see Jesus reveal in this chapter?

My thoughts about my own prayer life:

The Sacrifice Instructs!

Read Chapters 14-18

| Chapter | Title | Key Verse |
|---------|-------|-----------|
| 14 | | |
| 15 | | |
| 16 | | |
| 17 | | |
| 18 | | |

Chapter 14

1. Why didn't the Pharisees answer Jesus (3-6)?
2. What do we learn about the kingdom of God in this chapter?

Chapter 15

1. How do the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son instruct us about being a servant who sacrifices?

Chapter 16

1. To whom was the parable of the unrighteous steward addressed?
In what way does this differ from previous parables?
2. How does the story of the rich man and Lazarus relate to the conflict with the Pharisees?

Chapter 17

1. To whom and what is the message of 17:1-10?
2. Why is the account of the ten lepers placed where it is? How could it relate to future things?

Chapter 18

1. What is the central lesson of 18:1-8?
2. What was it that the rich young ruler was lacking?
3. How did Christ feel toward the rich young ruler, and what would be a modern day example of such a person?

My thoughts about application of these parables to my own life:

The Servant is Suffering!

Read Chapters 19-24

| Chapter | Title | Key Verse |
|---------|-------|-----------|
| 19 | | |
| 20 | | |
| 21 | | |
| 22 | | |
| 23 | | |
| 24 | | |

Chapter 19

1. What qualified Zaccheus for salvation?
2. What was this parable meant to teach (11-27)?

Chapter 20

1. How does the parable of the vinegrowers instruct us concerning Jesus' authority?
2. What is the position of the religious leaders with regard to Jesus and His words at this point?

Chapter 21

1. Why does He return to His teaching about future things? Toward whom and why?
2. What qualities are necessary to stand before the Son of Man?
3. Circle all of the commands listed in this chapter. What do they reveal?

Chapter 22

1. What do we learn about Christ's suffering that is unique to Luke's Gospel?
2. Why do you think that Peter experienced this particular test?
3. What are your conclusions about Peter, both pro and con?

Chapter 23

1. Why did Pilate respond in the manner in which he did?
2. Why was it necessary for someone to carry Jesus' cross?

Chapter 24

1. Why did Jesus ask the question what things (vs. 19) on the road to Emmaus?
2. How did the disciples recognize Jesus? Why is this significant?
3. Why does Jesus eat and why is it important?

WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

As we seek to apply the message of this Gospel to our lives, we need only to return to our key verse 19:10. We have clearly seen the graphic depth of commitment and compassion Jesus demonstrated in leaving the glory of heaven to SEEK AND SAVE. His choice to SUFFER humiliation and intense pain and anguish in His flesh on our behalf was sacrificial. We must ask ourselves the question, "What am I willing to give up in order to seek those still lost? Are my feet ready with the Gospel of Peace (Ephesians 6:15)?"

JESUS, DEPENDENT IN PRAYER

The following discourse by J. Sidlow Baxter proves well worth the time for observation and revelation of the Lord's dependency on prayer.

All through, we see a human dependence on God expressing itself in prayerfulness. Each synoptist records the Gethsemane praying, but apart from that our Lord's encouragement in prayer occurs only one in Matthew and twice in Mark, whereas in Luke it occurs repeatedly. Here alone we learn that when Jesus was endued by the Holy Spirit at Jordan He was 'praying' (3:21); that in His wilderness withdrawments from incessant thronging he 'prayed' (5:16); that before He chose the Twelve He solitarily 'continued all night in prayer' (6:12); that when He asked the Twelve 'Whom say ye that I am?' He was 'alone praying' (9:18); that at His transfiguration He had climbed the mountain 'to pray' (9:28), and that the actual transmorphism occurred 'as He prayed' (11:29); that just before he prescribed the so-called 'Lord's Prayer' He Himself was 'praying in a certain place' (11:1); that He assured Peter, 'I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not' (22:32); that in Gethsemane He 'prayed more earnestly' (22:44); that on the Cross both His first and last utterances were prayers (23:34,46).

There can be no mistaking that emphasis, or the appealing way it shows our Lord's human dependence. But see now how it reappears in His teaching. Only in Luke do we have the parable of the midnight appeal, 'Friend, lend me three loaves', teaching importunity in prayer (11:5-10); the parable of the Pharisee and the publican praying in the temple, teaching humility in prayer (18:9-14); only here 'Watch ye therefore, and pray always' (21:36); only here the second 'Rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation' (22:46); only here the request, 'Lord, teach us to pray and not to faint' (18:1); and the strange circumstance which occasioned our Lord's reassurance to Peter: 'But I have prayed for thee'. Is it surprising that some have called this the Gospel of prayers?

- From Explore The Book

Investigate each of the above references as a personal study on prayer.

My thoughts about prayer as a part of my life:

4 FORGIVENESS

What benefits does forgiveness bring? (1:77-79)

What did John the Baptist teach in relationship to forgiveness? (3:3)

What message was given to the disciples and what did it have to do with forgiveness? (24:47)

Why was the forgiving of sins so significant? (5:17-26)

What do we learn about forgiveness from the Pharisee & the woman? (7:36-50)

Why was forgiveness a part of this Kingdom Prayer? (11:4)

What is the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit? (12:1-12)

What is to be the breadth of our forgiveness? (17:3,4)

What did Jesus know firsthand about forgiveness? (23:34)

What about me?

Do you consider yourself a forgiving person?

What guidelines could you establish for yourself in light of the above passages that can help you to cultivate forgiveness as a life-style?