

The
New
Testament
in a Year

Week 2

Luke 6-10

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General Questions for Reflection

You might pick one part of each chapter and think about these questions.

- What does this tell me about God (including Jesus and the Holy Spirit)?
- What does this tell me about our world?
- What does it tell me about me?
- What does it say about following Jesus?
- Is there something here I'd like to learn more about?

Why not use these thoughts to shape your prayer today.

Monday

Luke 6

So how many of us shop on Sunday? Work on Sunday? And if we do -when do we take our God day, our day of rest?

That's part of the point of Jesus harvesting and healing on the Sabbath -but the real point is about the authority and Lordship of Christ. All his activities and teachings whisper the question: "Who is this guy?"

The answer? He is Lord - of the sabbath, and of ALL. That means there is a freedom when following Jesus. There aren't lots of complicated rules to break -the only law is love.

Did Lennon & McCartney read Luke? Maybe. The Beatles ended their Abbey Road album with the Christlike philosophy "And in the end, the love you take, is equal to the love you make."

The Kingdom that Jesus preached and lived was all about a glorious, uproarious, absurd generosity -of love & grace.

So -Think about the best thing you can do for the worst person you know, and go ahead and do it.

Tuesday

Luke 7

"After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum" ... and then he travelled on to Nain, and then to an encounter with John's messengers, and then off to dinner with a Pharisee. Jesus moves swiftly but powerfully, ever-deeper into the heart of his mission – giving new life to the dead, setting the captives free, forgiving the unforgivable, and almost always in the presence of a crowd.

It feels like Luke invites us to be one of the onlookers. We're given a front row seat to watch all these folks and more come to grips with the reality of Jesus. Right in front of them and us is the awesome scope of his love and mercy, compassion, and his adamant proclamation that we are saved by faith.

How does this reality of Jesus change your everyday reality?

Will you let his radical love free you to step out of the crowd, in faith?

Are you ready yet, to go and tell what you've seen and heard?

Wednesday

Luke 8

Because of increasing hostility from the Pharisees and Sadducees, Jesus stopped going to the synagogue and began to preach in the countryside.

In this chapter, Jesus taught by telling a story about planting seed. He said to use what you have. He said that those who listen to Him and obey Him are His true family. He calmed a storm, healed a man with demons inside him, gave life to a dead girl and healed a sick woman.

His words and actions were attempts to help others take Him and His Word seriously. His desire was for people to see Him and Know Him and understand His truth.

The question for us today is - If it's my responsibility to recognize God in Jesus and if God is communicating with me.....do I recognize His voice, His presence, His power and His love?

God seeks our total concentration on what He is conveying to us. So ask yourself - Do I "hear" God? Am I listening to what He is trying to tell me? Do I understand His 'secret' messages?

Just as He persisted in this chapter, He will continue to communicate and convey His truth to you!

Thursday

Luke 9

One of the most dramatic scenes in the New Testament occurs in this chapter. Jesus asked His followers - Who do you say that I am? (vs 20)

Peter answered, but I am sure it was after some hesitation, some shifting of feet and some anxious silence. Peter's response sliced the silence: "I believe that you are the Son of God."

Like people today, there are people in this chapter who watched Jesus and questioned Jesus. Herod Antipas was perplexed by Jesus. There are and always have been different responses and various misunderstandings of Christ's identity.

How do you answer this question? When Jesus asks you, "Who do you say that I am?" do you answer immediately or after some hesitation? Like Herod, are you perplexed and do you have further questions?

Do you know who Jesus is? Like Peter, are you able to say who Jesus is? Like Peter said, is He more than a prophet because He is the Christ and the Messiah?

Jesus asks this question of you today.....Who do YOU say that I am?.

Friday

Luke 10

The start of this chapter trigger-launches us toward evangelism. Then comes a taste of power (in Jesus' name). Power can go to your head, especially if you've never had any. The disciples – mainly farmers and fishermen – were overwhelmed to discover their spiritual authority. (Would that some of us experienced a bit of that too!). Jesus urged them to keep it in perspective. Their eternal friendship with God mattered more than their power.

Can a well-known story be fresh today? The hatred between Jews and Samaritans had gone on for hundreds of years -and is still reflected, tragically, in the smouldering tension between Israel and Palestine today. How long will Hamas and the Israeli army trade rocket fire? Jesus' parable has this edgy challenge: If you can't recognize the hated Samaritan as your neighbour, you might be left for dead.

No church nor Christ-follower can be content with easy definitions which allow us to watch most of the world lying half-dead in the road. Happily, many evangelical church leaders (like Rick Warren, Bill Hybels and Tony Campolo) are out front now in the quest for aid to the poor, elimination of AIDS, and development and relief in the 3rd World.