Dear Friend,

When I was a young man, I had the opportunity to spend two very important and intensely rich weeks with my grandfather. He was a godly man, who loved the Lord with his whole heart. And though he did not have a formal education, he was tremendously wise and had great insight into the principles of God’s Word. One of the first things he taught me was this: “Obey God and leave the consequences to him. No matter what he tells you to do, do it and trust him for the outcome.” This is a principle that I have learned to live by each day. There is nothing too great for God. He is above and over all things. He is sovereign, omnipotent, and omnipresent. My greatest needs are all met within him.

The second thing my grandfather told me was to read my Bible every day. After his death, I was given his Bible and knew the moment it was placed in my hands that he had lived what he preached. Every page was well-worn, and most bore the marks of intense Bible study. Over the years, I have come to realize that God’s Word offers the wisdom and insight I need at every turn. I cannot and never will encounter anything that is beyond him and the principles he has written in Scripture.

The Christian life is a wondrous adventure, full of twists and turns, good times and also difficult challenges. Through all of it, God’s Word is our greatest resource for insight, wisdom, hope, and guidance. Every problem we face has its solution in the Word of God. Where there is a need for comfort, peace or courage, he provides it. To find his wisdom, there is simply no substitute for spending time alone with him in prayer and the study of his Scriptures. Each year, I receive countless letters from people who ask if there is a way for them to know God’s will for their lives. The answer is yes. But before he will reveal this to us, we need to get to know him—the way he thinks, acts, and demonstrates his love for us.

The Charles F. Stanley Life Principles Bible was written to provide powerful insight into the principles written in God’s Word. These lessons are ones that I have learned personally during my sixty years of ministry, and it is my prayer that they will become principles that God will use in your life to teach you more about himself and to draw you closer to his heart. There is no substitute for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This is the very core of God’s message to each one of us. If we want to know him, we need to get to know his Son.

The various features and helps included in this Bible are not designed to be a substitute for personal Bible study. Instead, they are meant to be signposts to help you journey even deeper into God’s Word. You can pray and ask the Lord to open your heart to his Word so that you will understand his principles and learn to apply them to your life. They are timeless.

In this resource, I have highlighted many of the most crucial ones so that you might grow in your faith and learn to trust God in every area of your life. By surrendering our lives to him and then asking him to teach us his truths, we can put into practice the Life Principles he has given us. We also can learn to live a life of spiritual success and avoid the snares and traps that lead to ineffectiveness, heartache, and disappointment. God’s greatest goals for your life are for you to know him and then for you to live your life committed to him.

Throughout this Bible you’ll find several features designed to help you get the most out of your time in God’s Word:

• **Book introductions** to each of the 66 books of the Bible offer helpful background information and alert you to some of the most crucial Life Principles found in each book.

• **Life Principles** articles highlight thirty of the Bible’s most critical principles for successful Christian living. They focus on crucial topics such as building intimacy...
with God, prayer, obedience, dealing with adversity, and more.

- **What the Bible Says About** articles bring Scriptural insight to bear on a wide variety of topics of special concern to all believers in Christ: the Holy Spirit’s guidance, the process of spiritual growth, experiencing forgiveness, listening to God and many more.

- **Answers to Life’s Questions** focus on the many challenges we face in our Christian faith as we try to live for God in a world often hostile to our growth in grace. How do we deal with jealousy or bitterness, or how do we gain God’s mind in a tough situation? You’ll find those kinds of questions answered here.

- **Life Examples** briefly consider the lives of scores of God’s choice servants spotlighted in the Bible, with a special eye toward discerning how their experiences can encourage and help us.

- **Life Lessons** offer more than 2,500 insights into individual Bible verses and passages, emphasizing the practical and personal nature of God’s Word to us.

- **God’s Promises** highlight more than 300 of the Lord’s promises to his people—promises meant to encourage, strengthen, and fill us with hope.

- **The Life Principles Indexes** and the **Promises Index**, located in the front of the Bible, give you a convenient way to study God’s principles and promises in the Old and New Testaments.

As you read God’s holy Word, I encourage you to keep a notebook and a pen nearby so you can record the dates and times of your interactions with the Lord. As he shows you fresh truths, write them down. If he convicts you of a certain sin or attitude, make a note of it and write your prayer confessing that particular sin. If he gives you a moment of joy, praise him in writing. If you have questions, write those down as well, and ask the Holy Spirit to teach you God’s truth for every situation. You will also want to use other Bible helps, such as dictionaries and commentaries, to shed light on difficult passages. Don’t try to read large portions of the Bible at one time; sit and meditate on one verse or one portion of a verse. Also, be sure to ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what that verse means and how to make a practical application of it.

If you find a promise, a provision, a requirement, or a commandment that you sense he is giving you, record it in your notebook. Doing this faithfully day after day helps you to begin to think the way God thinks. You will start to use “the mind of Christ,” which the Bible says you have (1Co 2:16). You also will begin to see life from his perspective, which will help you understand how you need to live each day. The more you learn about God, the richer your life will become through the knowledge of his Word.

By surrendering your life to God and following his principles of obedience, you will be on the road to great blessing and reward. You will have the ability to live a liberated life—free from sin and full of God’s goodness, grace, and mercy. When you obey him, you can anticipate that he will reveal exciting new things to you. Never forget that the key to crossing any bridge successfully is faith and obedience. Jesus said, “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them” (Jn 14:21). The act of understanding his Word and obeying him comes from personal growth and intimacy with the Lord. The closer you draw to him, the more you will know about him.

This is what makes the journey into God’s truth so exciting. You have the guarantee that the Lord will reveal more of himself and his goodness to you as you mature in your relationship with him. He also will pour out his blessings on your life until it overflows with joy, peace, and goodness; and I believe that as you put into practice his principles, you will enjoy the abundant life that Jesus so earnestly desires to give to you (Jn 10:10). It is my prayer that you will not only discover the treasure of his infinite love and truth, but that you will walk in the light of his goodness each and every day. There is only one way to do this, and it is by knowing God through prayer and the study of his Word.

*Charles F. Stanley*
Luke, a physician, writes with the compassion and warmth of a family doctor as he carefully documents the perfect humanity of the Son of Man, Jesus Christ. He emphasizes Jesus’ ancestry, birth and early life before moving carefully and chronologically through his earthly ministry.

At the very beginning of his Gospel, Luke tells his audience that he wasn’t an original apostle or even an eyewitness to Jesus’ words and works. Many believe Luke came to faith in Christ through the ministry of the apostle Paul, whom he befriended and accompanied on some of his missionary journeys. Luke may have been a Gentile convert to Christianity, making him the only non-Jewish writer of a New Testament book (he also penned the Acts of the Apostles). Luke has a fondness for parables; of the twenty-five he includes in his Gospel, seventeen do not appear anywhere else. He also describes seven of Jesus’ miracles that were not mentioned in the other two Synoptic Gospels.

Luke’s Gospel includes many details of Jesus’ life omitted from the other three Gospels. Only Luke records a detailed account of Jesus’ birth and the events surrounding it. He includes the angelic announcement to Jesus’ mother, Mary, and the fact that she would give birth to the Messiah. He also records the story of the conception and birth of John the Baptist. Only Luke includes an account of the boyhood of Jesus.

Luke presents Jesus as a man of great compassion and intense emotions. Luke alone, for example, records how Jesus looked out over the holy city of Jerusalem and wept over its coming destruction. Luke also shows us that Jesus had a very sympathetic attitude toward women, the poor, the sinners, the sick and the dying. Christ’s resurrection ensures that his purpose is fulfilled: “To seek and to save the lost” (Lk 19:10).


Theme: Jesus is the Son of Man.

Author: Luke.

Time: Most scholars believe Luke wrote his Gospel a few years before he wrote the Acts of the Apostles, which he likely penned circa AD 63 or 64.

Structure: Luke starts his Gospel by explaining that he had thoroughly investigated Jesus’ story and had written his account based on his careful investigations. The first two chapters of this Gospel contain several incidents unique to Luke that are related to Jesus’ birth and early life.

As you read Luke, watch for the life principles that play an important role in this book:


22. To walk in the Spirit is to obey the initial promptings of the Spirit. See Luke 4:1.

10. If necessary, God will move heaven and earth to show us his will. See Luke 7:30.


Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”

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**Life Lessons**

1:3 — I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning. Luke wanted the recipient of his letter to know that he had accurately researched the life of Jesus Christ. Because he was a physician, we can conclude that his research was investigative and extensive. Only after careful study that probably included interviewing the people who knew the Savior personally, did he begin to write.

1:17 — “He will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah . . . to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” In ancient times, the arrival of a king was heralded by a forerunner so that his subjects could prepare for his appearance. The cities would hold great festivals, and everything would be cleaned and repaired so that the king would see his dominion at its best. When the King of kings came to earth, the same was true (Isa 40:3; Mal 3:1). John the Baptist preached “in the spirit and power of Elijah” to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus Christ. Like Elijah before him, he bravely and powerfully proclaimed the truth of the people’s need for repentance and salvation.
Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple.

When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. The Lord has done this for me," she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”

See the Life Principles Index for more:

2. Obey God and leave all the consequences to him.
5. God does not require us to understand his will, just obey it, even if it seems unreasonable.

LIFE LESSONS

1:30 — But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.” The favor of God is worth any discomfort it might entail. The Lord chose Mary to give birth to the Savior of the world, but she also had to bear the public shame of people not understanding what he was doing through her and through Jesus.
He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

The Birth of John the Baptist

When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son.

Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God.

All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill...

Ø 1:37 — “No word from God will ever fail.” We can trust God even in the most difficult of circumstances, because no problem is too tough for him to handle and no challenge is beyond his power to overcome. He has the ability to do what he says he will do.

Ø 1:45 — “Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!” What would have happened had Mary not believed Gabriel’s words? Would she have disqualified herself from being the mother of Jesus? The fact is, she did believe and she obeyed God. Her obedience set the stage for the Lord’s blessings. He not only fulfilled his word in her, he also used her to accomplish his prophecy to our lost and dying world.
country of Judea people were talking about all these things. Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, "What then is this child going to be?" For the Lord’s hand was with him.

Zechariah’s Song
67 His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:
68 "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them.
69 He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David
70 (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),
71 salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us—
72 to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant,
73 the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
74 to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,
77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,
78 because of the tender mercy of our God,
79 by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
80 to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."
81 And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

The Birth of Jesus
2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)
3 And everyone went to their own town to register.
4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.
5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.
6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,
7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.
8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.
9 An angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds and said to them, "Fear not, for I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.
10 This is what the Lord has said: The Spirit of the Lord will come on you; you will be filled with the Holy Spirit, and you will be a prophet to the nations.
11 And when the child grew, he was filled with wisdom and the Spirit of God was upon him.
12 And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

LIFE LESSONS
> 1:74–75 — “Serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him.” Those who fear God do not have to fear anything else. When we commit ourselves wholeheartedly to serving the Lord, we can enjoy the great blessings that come with holiness and righteousness.

> 1:78 — “The rising sun will come to us from heaven.” Zechariah was referring to the prophecy of Malachi 4:2, “You who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise.” This of course, was speaking about the Messiah. By first listing God’s covenants to David and Abraham (Lk 1:69,73), and then referring to the last thing the Lord said in Malachi, Zechariah was confirming that God had indeed kept every aspect of his promise to send the Savior. The good news that the Israelites had been longing to hear had finally arrived.

> 2:7 — She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger. Amazingly, God stepped into this world not as the reigning king with pomp and ceremony, but as the humble child who was wrapped in simple swaddling clothes. Far from a royal crib, Jesus’ first resting place was a primitive feeding trough.

a 69 Horn here symbolizes a strong king.
b 80 Or in the Spirit
c 2 Or This census took place before
of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

Jesus Presented in the Temple

22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

30 The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 31 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

32 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her announcement of his Son—the Savior of the world. The angel told them not to fear, but to open their eyes and watch for the wonderfully good thing that the Lord was doing for them and for the whole world—something that would bring great joy to everyone.
37 marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

The Boy Jesus at the Temple
41 Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him,

LIFE LESSONS

➤ 2:40 — The child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him. Jesus had to grow, just like every other human child. He became strong in spirit and filled with wisdom because he grew up in the grace of God. The Lord’s loving-kindness is what makes us both strong and wise.

➤ 2:47 — Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. The wisdom of God is astounding. Even the teachers of the Law and temple scholars were completely amazed at Christ’s spiritual insight—especially at such a young age. Yet remember, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding” (Pr 9:10). The Lord’s remarkable knowledge and understanding are available to all who truly believe in him (Jer 33:3; 1Co 1:18—2:16; Jas 1:5—6). Do you need God’s wisdom for your situation? Then trust and obey him, because he will surely reveal himself to you as you seek him (Lk 11:9—10).

LIFE EXAMPLES

SIMEON
Whole in the Arms of God
LUKE 2:25–35
As he made his way to the temple, we may wonder if Simeon thought, “The years must be catching up to me. How long will I have to wait for God to answer my prayer?” How long had it been since he had received the special word of the Lord? Five? Ten years? It didn’t matter. Each day brought him closer to the fulfillment of God’s promise that “he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah” (Lk 2:26).

At that moment, a young couple emerged onto the temple porch with a newborn son. “The Child!” Simeon thought. He approached the young family, took the babe in his arms and immediately knew this was the One for whom he had waited so long.

The Lord always keeps his promises. And this faithful servant of God had the opportunity to witness the Savior as promised. He took Jesus in his arms and blessed him saying, “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation” (Lk 2:29–30).

See the Life Principles Index for more:
5. God does not require us to understand his will, just obey it, even if it seems unreasonable.
9. Trusting God means looking beyond what we can see to what God sees.

a 37 Or then had been a widow for eighty-four years.
Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all people will see God’s salvation.”

7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to your selves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 9 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

10 “What should we do then?” the crowd asked.
11 John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.”
14 Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

5 Every valley shall be filled in,
   every mountain and hill made low.
   The crooked roads shall become straight,
   the rough ways smooth.
   6 And all people will see God’s salvation.”

LIFE LESSONS

➢ 2:50 — They did not understand what he was saying to them. Even as a boy, Jesus spoke of spiritual issues in ways that his hearers often did not understand. Serious Christ-followers, however, strive to gain understanding, as did Mary (Lk 2:51) and his disciples (8:9).

➢ 2:51 — He went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, but he was placed in the care and under the authority of his earthly parents, Mary and Joseph. He submitted to them, not as an inferior, but as an example of obedience to us.

➢ 3:4 — “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord.’” John faithfully fulfilled the calling given to him even before his birth, which was announced by the angel Gabriel to his father Zechariah (Lk 1:11–19). Likewise, God created you for a very special purpose. Even before you were born, he had great plans for you as well (Ps 139:13–16; Eph 2:10).

➢ 3:11 — “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.” An intimate relationship with God is about far more than merely enjoying warm feelings toward the Creator of the universe. Any genuine love for the Lord will move a person to perform real acts of love toward others (Jas 2:15–16; 1Jn 3:16–18). It also stirs people’s hearts toward salvation, commitment and obedience.

➢ 3:14 — “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.” John the Baptist did not advise soldiers
He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. 16 John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

18 And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

19 But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of his marriage to Herodias, his brother’s wife, and all the other evil things he had done, 20 Herod added this to them all: He locked John up in prison.

The Baptism and Genealogy of Jesus

21 When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

23 Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph,

the son of Heli, 24 the son of Matthat,
the son of Levi, the son of Melki,
the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph,
25 the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos,

the son of Nahum, the son of Eesi,
the son of Naggai, 26 the son of Math,
the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein,
the son of Josek, the son of Joda,
27 the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa,
the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel,
the son of Neri, 28 the son of Melki,
the son of Addi, the son of Cosam,
the son of Elmadam, the son of Er,
29 the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer,
the son of Jorim, the son of Mattath,
the son of Levi, 30 the son of Simeon,
the son of Judah, the son of Joseph,
the son of Jonam, the son of Ela-

kım,
31 the son of Melea, the son of Menna,
the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan,
the son of David, 32 the son of Jesse,
the son of Obed, the son of Boaz,
the son of Salmon, b the son of Nahshon,
33 the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, c
the son of Hezron, the son of Perez,
the son of Judah, 34 the son of Jacob,
the son of Isaac, the son of Abra-

ham,
the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,
35 the son of Serug, the son of Reu,
the son of Peleg, the son of Eber,
the son of Shelah, 36 the son of Ca-

inan,
the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem,
LUKE 3:37

the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,
37 the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch,
the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel,
the son of Kenan, 38 the son of Enoch,
the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

3 The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”

5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

8 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

9 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here.”

10 For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you carefully;

11 they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

12 Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15 He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue

LIFE LESSONS

➢ 4:1 — Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. To walk in the Spirit is to obey the initial promptings of the Spirit. This does not mean life will always be easy or problem-free. Sometimes the Lord will lead us into the wilderness or into situations that are difficult. In fact, this often happens after times of great spiritual growth or victory. However, if we trust and obey him, we will surely triumph, and our relationship with him will grow even deeper and stronger.

➢ 4:13 — When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time. Satan does not attack us in the same way at all times. He looks for opportune moments, when we feel weakest or most discouraged, to suggest that God cannot be trusted and we must take matters into our own hands. How do we fend off his lies? By walking daily with the Lord in prayer, studying his Word and staying strong in our faith (1Pe 5:8–11).
were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”

“Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown.

I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”

All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

Jesus Drives Out an Impure Spirit

Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority.

In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice,

“Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

“Be quiet!” Jesus said sternly. “Come out of him!” Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!” And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.

Jesus Heals Many

Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her.

So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.

Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them.

But he said, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.” And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon,

LIFE LESSONS

4:21 — “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” Those in the synagogue understood that the text Jesus read (Isa 61) referred to the prophesied Messiah. Therefore, at the outset of his ministry Jesus announced that he is the Savior and Redeemer that Israel and the world had been awaiting.
and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

4When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

5Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

6When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

8When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”

9For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” 11So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy

12While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. 13When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

14Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” And immediately the leprosy left him.

15Then Jesus ordered him, “Don’t tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.”

16Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. 17But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

17One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick.

18Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. 19When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

20When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

21The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

22Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? 23Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are for-
will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. 37 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. 38 No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. 39 And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, ‘The old is better.’ ”

Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath

6 One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels. 2 Some of the Pharisees asked, “Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?”

3 Jesus answered them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? 4 He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.”

5 Then Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

6 On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled. 7 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. 8 But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Stretch out your hand.” So he got up and stood there.

9 Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?”

10 He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was given.’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? 24 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” 25 Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. 26 Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”

Jesus Calls Levi and Eats With Sinners

27 After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, 28 and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

29 Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. 30 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” 31 Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Jesus Questioned About Fasting

33 They said to him, “John’s disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking.” 34 Jesus answered, “Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? 35 But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast.”

36 He told them this parable: “No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. 37 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. 38 No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. 39 And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, ‘The old is better.’ ”

LIFE LESSONS

6:9 — “I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?” Every law or commandment that God ever gave to his people, he gave for their own good (Dt 10:13). The Lord takes no pleasure in regulations that destroy, injure or allow injustice to remain—so the answer to Jesus’ question should have been obvious. Sadly, these religious leaders had added so many stipulations to his commands that they prevented people from practicing the spirit of the Law—loving God and serving others (Mt 23:13–28).
LUKE 6:11

and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man.

23 “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

24 “But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.

25 Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry.

26 Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

Love for Enemies

27 “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them.

30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back.

31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

32 “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get any-

LIFE LESSONS

➤ 6:12 — One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. Jesus spent all night in prayer immediately before he chose the twelve disciples who would accompany him everywhere. Whenever we make any decision—major or minor—we should follow his example and wholeheartedly seek his counsel.

➤ 6:35 — “He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.” If God were not kind to the unappreciative and ungodly, where would any of us be (Ro 5:8)? The Lord will always judge sin, but he desires that we would turn from our sin and receive his salvation so that he can bless us, not judge us (1Pe 3:9). Likewise, we must be kind to all people—showing them God’s love and mercy—in the hope that they will repent and be saved (2Ti 2:24–26).
up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

The Wise and Foolish Builders
46 "Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? 47 As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. 48 They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. 49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

The Faith of the Centurion
7 When Jesus had finished saying all this to the people who were listening, he entered Capernaum. 2 There a centurion’s servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. 3 The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. 4 When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, “This man deserves to have you do this, 5 because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue.” 6 So Jesus went with them.

A Tree and Its Fruit
43 No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. 44 Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briers. 45 A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

LIFE LESSONS
➤ 6:44 — “Each tree is recognized by its own fruit.” What kind of fruit do you bear? How would your family, co-workers and neighbors describe you? Would they say you are loving or selfish? Godly or unscrupulous? The way to measure the effectiveness of your walk with the Lord is to see what is being produced. Are people being drawn to God through you, or are they turned off to him because of your ways? You can only make a difference in this world for Christ if you abide in him (Jn 15:5).
➤ 6:45 — “A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart . . . For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.” Your speech says a lot about you. Is your conversation tainted by complaining and cursing? Or is it characterized by praise for the Lord and sound wisdom? This shows what is stored in your heart, and if it is negative, you should reevaluate what you’ve been focusing on. Set your heart on God because then good, helpful speech will flow from you.
under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

9When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.”

10Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

**Jesus Raises a Widow’s Son**

11Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him.

12As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her.

13When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.”

14Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!”

15The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

16They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said, “God has come to help his people.”

17This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

**Jesus and John the Baptist**

18John’s disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, 19he sent them to the Lord to ask, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

20When the men came to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’”

21At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind.

22So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. 23Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

24After John’s messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? 25If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces.

26But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 27This is the one about whom it is written:

“‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

28I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

29(All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus’ words, acknowledged that God’s way was right, because they had been baptized by John.

30But the Pharisees and the ex-

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**LIFE LESSONS**

- **7:15** — The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. This was not the only time Jesus raised a dead person back to life. He who is called the “Word of life” (1Jn 1:1) is “Lord of both the dead and the living” (Ro 14:9).

- **7:21** — At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. In prison, John had begun to doubt whether Jesus was the promised Messiah. In his grace, the Lord showed the discouraged John the truth. In the number and variety of his miracles, Jesus was doing what no Old Testament prophet had ever done.

- **7:30** — The Pharisees and the experts in the law rejected God’s purpose for themselves. It is possible to reject the Lord’s will
“Tell me, teacher,” he said.
41 “Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”
43 Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.”
44 “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.
46 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."
48 Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”
49 The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”
50 Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

The Parable of the Sower
8 After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had

LIFE LESSONS

and even work against it. This will never happen accidentally, however, or take place despite your desires. If you want to know God’s will for your life, he will move heaven and earth to show it to you. But you have to choose it and obey him.

➤ 7:47 — “Whoever has been forgiven little loves little.” If we refuse to see the magnitude of our sin, the Lord’s sacrifice may not seem significant to us. But when we understand the true condition of our sinful hearts and the terrible penalty of our transgressions, his immense sacrifice for us inspires deep love and devotion (Ro 3:10–26; 6:23).

➤ 8:2–3 — Some women . . . were helping to support them out of their own means. Luke came from a culture that largely dismissed or at least downplayed the importance of women, yet he often highlights the contributions of women in the ministry of Jesus. He thus
been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

4While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable:

5“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. 6Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. 7Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. 8Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”

When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

9His disciples asked him what this parable meant. 10He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

“‘though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.’

11“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. 12Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. 13Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. 14The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. 15But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

A Lamp on a Stand

16“No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.

17For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. 18Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they think they have will be taken from them.”

Jesus’ Mother and Brothers

19Now Jesus’ mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd.

20Some one told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.”

21He replied, “My mother and brothers are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice.”

Jesus Calms the Storm

22One day Jesus said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side of the lake.” So they got into a boat and set out. 23As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

24The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we’re going to drown!”

LIFE LESSONS

anticipates the message of Galatians 3:28, “You are all one in Christ Jesus.”

➢ 8:16 — “No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.” When you accept the light of the world, Jesus Christ (Jn 8:12), as your Lord and Savior, you cannot hide that you know him. Rather, you must allow his light to shine through you so that others can also have his light—so they also can accept the salvation he offers.
He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return home and tell how much God has done for you.” So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman

Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus’ feet, pleading with him to come to his house because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying.

As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

“Who touched me?” Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you.”

But Jesus said, “Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.”

Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed.

Then he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”

While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” he said. “Don’t bother the teacher anymore.”

Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus,
10 When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida, but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

12 Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, “Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.”

13 He replied, “You give them something to eat.”

14 About five thousand men were there. But he said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.”

15 The disciples did so, and everyone sat down. 16 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. 17 They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve baskets of broken pieces that were left over.

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

9 When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. 3 He told them: “Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt. Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. 5 If people do not welcome you, leave their town and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.” 6 So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.

7 Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was going on. And he was perplexed because some were saying that John had been raised from the dead, others that Elijah had appeared, and still others that one of the prophets of long ago had come back to life. 9 But Herod said, “I beheaded John. Who, then, is this I hear such things about?” And he tried to see him.

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

18 Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, “Who do the crowds say I am?” 19 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life.”

LIFE LESSONS

- 8:53 — They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. As a physician, Luke wanted his audience to know that the child Jesus healed was really and truly dead. One day, Jesus will destroy death altogether (1Co 15:21), but in this passage, he clearly showed his mastery over it.

- 9:13 — He replied, “You give them something to eat.” The Lord will never command us to do something without also providing whatever is required to obey him. In this case, feeding five thousand men seemed absolutely impossible, but he provided what they needed, and there were even leftovers.
20 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”
Peter answered, “God’s Messiah.”

Jesus Predicts His Death
21 Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. 22 And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”
23 Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. 25 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? 26 Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.
27 “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”

The Transfiguration
28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. 29 As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. 30 Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. 31 They spoke about his departure, a which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.

LIFE LESSONS
➢ 9:20 — “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “God’s Messiah.” Ultimately, this is the question we must all answer and the foundation of our confession of faith (Ro 10:9–10). To say that Jesus is the Christ means we believe that he is God incarnate, born of a virgin, crucified unto death, buried, resurrected on the third day and fully capable of forgiving our sins and reconciling us to himself. We trust that all he taught is true, and we have eternal life because of him, and all he has promised and has been prophesied about him will be fulfilled. Is this what you believe? Do you have faith that Jesus is the Savior? Who do you say he is?

➢ 9:29–30 — As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. Peter, James and John knew Jesus as a great teacher and son of a carpenter from Nazareth, but here they saw him as they never dreamed they would — as the glorified Messiah. Also, Elijah and Moses were talking to him — Moses the greatest of the lawgivers, and Elijah the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. So Jesus was also revealing himself to be the fulfillment of the Law and the prophets (Mt 5:17–18; Lk 24:44–47).

32 Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. 33 As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)
34 While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. 35 A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” 36 When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Boy
37 The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. 38 A man in the crowd called out, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. 39 A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. 40 I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not.”
41 “You unbelieving and perverse generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.” 42 Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground
a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the impure spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. 43 And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.

Jesus Predicts His Death a Second Time

While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples, 44 “Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men.” 45 But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.

An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. 47 Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside him. 48 Then he said to them, “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest.”

49 “Master,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we tried to stop him, because he is not one of us.”

50 “Do not stop him,” Jesus said, “for whoever is not against you is for you.”

Samaritan Opposition

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. 52 And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; 53 but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. 54 When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?”

But Jesus turned and rebuked them.

Then he and his disciples went to another village.

The Cost of Following Jesus

55 As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

56 Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

57 He said to another man, “Follow me.”

58 But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

59 Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

60 Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”

61 Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two

10 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. 2 He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

The majesty and greatness of God is displayed in many ways. In this case, it was demonstrated in his irresistible power over an unclean spirit. We should always remember, “His kingdom rules over all” (Ps 103:19), and he is certainly able to help us, no matter what challenge we face.

Jesus turned and rebuked them. The disciples still did not understand who they really were in Christ. Sometimes we do not act like the new men and women he is transforming us into either. Yet we are new creations all the same, and we must do our best to represent him with love and mercy so that others will believe and be saved (2Co 5:17–21; 2Ti 2:24–26).

“...The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” The Lord invites us to partner with him in expanding his kingdom. Even though he is the One who draws people to himself and redeems them, he still leaves the proclamation of the message to us.
the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. 4 Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

5 “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house,’ 6 If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. 7 Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

8 “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. 9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ 10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 11 ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.’ 12 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

13 “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. 14 But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. 15 And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades.a

16 “Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me, but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

18 He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

22 “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

23 Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. 24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

26 “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?”

27 He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

30 In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, a 15 That is, the realm of the dead b 27 Deut. 6:5 c 27 Lev. 19:18

that our greatest cause for rejoicing should be our salvation. Evangelism is therefore a more important work than we may imagine (Jn 14:12).
when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii[a] and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ 36 ‘Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?’ 37 The expert in the law replied, ‘The one who had mercy on him.’ Jesus told him, ‘Go and do likewise.’

At the Home of Martha and Mary 38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. 40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, ‘Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!’ 41 ‘Martha, Martha,’ the Lord answered, ‘you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but few things are needed—or indeed only one. 43 Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Jesus’ Teaching on Prayer 11 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” 2 He said to them, “When you pray, say:

‘Father, b
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. d
3 Give us each day our daily bread. 4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. e
And lead us not into temptation. f’ ”

5 Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; 6 a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ 7 And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ 8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity[g] he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

9 “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

LIFE LESSONS

➢ 10:42 — “Few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” God created us to enjoy a deep and intimate relationship with himself. While works of service are important, they must never eclipse the fellowship he wants to experience with each of us.

➢ 11:1 — “Lord, teach us to pray.” The disciples often saw Jesus off by himself in prayer. Seeing the power, wisdom and joy in his life, they asked him to teach them to pray as he did. They wanted to connect with God in an intimate relationship and experience his awesome presence. Are our lives characterized by our time before the throne of grace? Do we inspire others to communicate with and listen to the Lord?
For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Jesus and Beelzebul

Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed. But some of them said, “By Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons.” Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven.

Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: “Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall. If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebul. Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpower him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder.

Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first.”

As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, “Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you.”

He replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”

The Sign of Jonah

As the crowds increased, Jesus said, “This is a wicked generation. It asks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah. For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation. The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon’s wisdom; and now something greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and now something greater than Jonah is here.

The Lamp of the Body

No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are healthy, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are unhealthy, your body also is full of darkness.

See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness. Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you.”

11 Some manuscripts for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for healthy here implies generous.

34 The Greek for unhealthy here implies stingy.

LIFE LESSONS

11:28 — “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.” God always promises to bless joyful obedience.
LIFE PRINCIPLE 21

OBEDIENCE ALWAYS BRINGS BLESSING.

Luke 11:28

The Lord’s simple requests often serve as stepping-stones to life’s most wonderful blessings. Simon Peter illustrates what can happen when we say yes to God.

One day a large crowd pressed around Jesus while he preached (Lk 5:1–11). The Lord wanted to use Peter’s boat as a floating platform from which to address the multitude, so he asked the future apostle to push the vessel out a little way from shore (v. 3)—not in itself a particularly remarkable request. But Peter’s compliance to his request paved the way for a life-changing blessing. From his example, we also learn how essential it is to obey God in even the smallest matters.

The noisy crowd received the first blessing of Peter’s obedience; the people could now clearly hear Jesus’ words. At the conclusion of the lesson, the Lord said to Peter, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch” (5:4)—a second opportunity to say yes or no. But this time, Peter may have felt tempted to decline. After all, he was a seasoned fisherman. He had worked the entire night for a catch but had returned empty-handed. Now this young teacher—a carpenter, by the way, not a fisherman—was asking him to go fishing again?

Peter’s reply demonstrates the beginning of a lifetime of faith in God. He said, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets” (5:5, emphasis added). The soon-to-be disciple chose to obey the Lord and to leave the consequences of his decision to him.

But notice what happened as a result of Peter’s obedience—Jesus demonstrated his power and sovereignty. Peter and his partners may have started the day off thinking their efforts had yielded nothing. But they ended it in complete amazement because they pulled in not one but two overflowing boatloads of fish (5:7). Saying yes to the Lord’s request resulted in a miracle that transformed not only one fisherman’s life, but the lives of the entire group.

Consider three reasons why obedience is critical to the successful Christian life:

1. **Obeying God in small matters is an essential step in receiving God’s greatest blessings.**

Suppose Peter had said, “Look, I’m busy cleaning my nets right now. I can’t help you because I’m going fishing again tonight.” Or he could have said, “Why don’t you ask to use that other boat, over there?” Or, “I’ve already been fishing today; it would be a waste of time to go again.” If Peter had said anything other than yes, he would have missed the greatest fishing experience of his life. But because of Peter’s obedience, the Lord arranged a miracle that he would never forget.

Often, God’s greatest blessings come
God's ways will never disappoint us.

as a result of our willingness to do something that appears very insignificant. So ask yourself, “Has God been challenging me to do something seemingly unimportant that I have not yet made an effort to accomplish? Is there anything I have rationalized by saying, ‘It’s too difficult,’ ‘I don’t want to’ or ‘I have to pray about it first’?”

2. Our obedience always benefits others.

Think of how many people were blessed by Peter’s obedience. Not only could the crowd see the Lord and hear his lesson, but Jesus himself also benefited—preaching from the boat enabled him to sit down in comfort while he spoke (5:3). Then, of course, Peter’s friends had a very profitable day—they took in two vessels so full of fish that both began to sink. More importantly, they had the opportunity to witness the Lord’s supernatural provision.

God often rewards others—in particular, those closest to us—as a result of our obedience. For example, when a parent obeys the Lord, the entire family reaps the reward of God’s blessings. Likewise, a child’s obedience will bless his or her parents. This does not mean that those who choose to disobey the Lord will escape his discipline because of someone else’s godly walk. His call to obedience always demands our response.

However, when we live obedient lives, those who know and love us will sense the peace and joy he has given us. Instead of conflict, there will be contentment—and that is just one part of experiencing God’s goodness.

3. When we obey God, we will never be disappointed.

Peter no doubt assumed that Jesus’ fishing instructions would amount to a waste of time. But when he complied with the Lord’s simple request, Christ brought about a miracle that gripped the disciple with amazement. Jesus turned an empty boat into a full one. We, like Peter, must recognize that obeying God is always the wisest course of action. He can also take our emptiness—whether related to finances, relationships or career—and change it into something splendid.

Perhaps you have hesitated to obey God because you fear the consequences of your decision. But the Lord’s command is for you to fear him above all else. The same sovereign, omnipotent God who keeps your heart beating and the planets orbiting is more than able to handle the results of your obedience.

When he tells you to do something and you know without a doubt it is his will, then you need to obey based solely on who is doing the talking.

When you choose to obey the Lord, he will bless you. This is because obedience always leads to blessing. I have always told people who say they do not understand why God is asking them to do a certain thing that if they will obey him, he will reward them with a sense of peace and joy that compares to nothing this world has to offer. Therefore, set a goal to obey the Lord and watch him work in your life.

See the Life Principles Index for further study.
Woes on the Pharisees and the Experts in the Law

37 When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table. 38 But the Pharisee was surprised when he noticed that Jesus did not first wash before the meal.

39 Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. 40 You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? 41 But now as for what is inside you—be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.

42 “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

43 “Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and respectful greetings in the marketplaces.

44 “Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which people walk over without knowing it.”

45 One of the experts in the law answered him, “Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us also.”

46 Jesus replied, “And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.

47 “Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your ancestors who killed them. 48 So you testify that you approve of what your ancestors did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs. 49 Because of this, God in his wisdom said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.’

50 Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, 51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.

52 “Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.”

53 When Jesus went outside, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions, waiting to catch him in something he might say.

Warnings and Encouragements

12 Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: “Be a on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. 2 There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or

LIFE LESSONS

➢ 11:44 — “You are like unmarked graves, which people walk over without knowing it.” How were the scribes and Pharisees like unmarked graves? Because just as touching the dead defiled a person, so their teachings were causing people to remain unclean. These religious leaders emphasized legalistic compliance to religious dogma and manmade traditions instead of encouraging people to genuinely submit to the Lord. Consequently, they were leading people to eternal separation from him instead of showing them how to be saved.

“‘They are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge . . . They did not submit to God’s righteousness’ (Ro 10:2–3).

➢ 11:45 — “Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us also.” In hearing the rebuke to the Pharisees, the lawyers were convicted about their own sins of hypocrisy and leading people astray. This upset them. Although Jesus knew how to answer tough questions in a manner that delighted his hearers, he did not neglect the truth to remain popular. He never shrank from rebuking those who needed it in the hope that they would repent and be saved.
And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. 17 He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ 18 Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. 19 And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’

But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God. 22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no store room or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? 27 Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of

The Parable of the Rich Fool 13 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” 14 Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” 15 Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

LIFE LESSONS

✓ 12:6 — “Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.” The Lord remembers even the sparrows that end up for sale at the market and knows their plight. So you never have to worry that he has forgotten you. He knows your situation and how best to deliver you from your troubles. Trust him.

✓ 12:15 — “Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” True satisfaction in life flows out of fulfilling the purpose for which we were created—to enjoy an intimate relationship with God. Wealth can never substitute for a relationship with him, and it will ultimately only make the heart feel hollow (Ecc 6:2).
little faith! 29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

32“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Watchfulness
35“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, 36 like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. 37 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. 38 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. 39 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. 40 You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

41 Peter asked, “Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?”

42 The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? 43 It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. 44 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 45 But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk. 46 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

47 “The servant who knows the master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. 48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Not Peace but Division
49 “I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! 50 But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! 51 Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. 52 From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. 53 They will be divided, father against son and

LIFE LESSONS
> **12:37** — “It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.” The Lord Jesus is coming again, and an eager anticipation of his return should keep us living productively. Although servants attend to their superiors in this world, Jesus says that he, the master, will bless his faithful disciples when he returns to settle accounts.

> **12:48** — “From the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.” Jesus does not give us gifts, talents and resources merely to spend them on ourselves. He gives them to us so that we will use them to expand his kingdom and to meet the needs of others—especially fellow believers (1Co 12:4–7; Gal 6:9–10).
son against father, mother against
daughter and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-
in-law.”

Interpreting the Times
54 He said to the crowd: “When you
see a cloud rising in the west, imme-
diately you say, ‘It’s going to rain,’ and
it does. 55 And when the south wind
blows, you say, ‘It’s going to be hot,’
and it is. 56 Hypocrites! You know how
to interpret the appearance of the
earth and the sky. How is it that you
don’t know how to interpret this pres-
ent time?
57 “Why don’t you judge for your-
selves what is right? 58 As you are go-
ing with your adversary to the magis-
trate, try hard to be reconciled on the
way, or your adversary may drag you
off to the judge, and the judge turn
you over to the officer, and the officer
throw you into prison. 59 I tell you, you
will not get out until you have paid the
last penny.”

Repent or Perish
13 Now there were some present at
that time who told Jesus about
the Galileans whose blood Pilate had
mixed with their sacrifices. 2 Jesus an-
swered, “Do you think that these Gal-
ileans were worse sinners than all the
other Galileans because they suffered
this way? 3 I tell you, no! But unless
you repent, you too will all perish.
4 Or those eighteen who died when the
tower in Siloam fell on them—do you
think they were more guilty than all
the others living in Jerusalem? 5 I tell
you, no! But unless you repent, you too
will all perish.”
6 Then he told this parable: “A man
had a fig tree growing in his vineyard,
and he went to look for fruit on it but
did not find any. 7 So he said to the
man who took care of the vineyard,
‘For three years now I’ve been com-
ing to look for fruit on this fig tree and
haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why
should it use up the soil?’
8 “Sir,” the man replied, ‘leave it
alone for one more year, and I’ll dig
around it and fertilize it. 9 If it bears
fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it
down.’”

Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman
on the Sabbath
10 On a Sabbath Jesus was teach-
ing in one of the synagogues, 11 and a
woman was there who had been crip-
pled by a spirit for eighteen years. She
was bent over and could not straight-
en up at all. 12 When Jesus saw her,
he called her for ward and said to her,
“Woman, you are set free from your
infirmity.” 13 Then he put his hands on
her, and immediately she straightened
up and praised God.
14 In dignant because Jesus had
healed on the Sabbath, the syna-
gogue leader said to the people, “There are six
days for work. So come and be healed
on those days, not on the Sabbath.”
15 The Lord answered him, “You
hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on
the Sabbath un tie your ox or donkey
from the stall and lead it out to give
it water? 16 Then should not this wom-
an, a daughter of Abraham, whom Sa-
tan has kept bound for eighteen long
years, be set free on the Sabbath day
from what bound her?”
17 When he said this, all his op-
ponents were humiliated, but the peo-
ple were delighted with all the won-
derful things he was doing.

The Parables of the Mustard Seed
and the Yeast
18 Then Jesus asked, “What is the

LIFE LESSONS
➢ 13:3 — “I tell you, no! But unless you
repent, you too will all perish.” The victims
of tragedies are not necessarily the recipients
of divine judgment. Yet because we live in a
dangerous world where tragedies occur without
warning, we must always be ready to meet our
God (Heb 9:27).
➢ 13:16 — “Should not this woman . . . be
set free on the Sabbath day . . . ?” When
we care more for keeping rules than we do for
the welfare of people made in God’s image,
we miss the whole point of our existence.
Romans 13:10 explains, “Love is the fulfillment
of the law.”
kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? 19 It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches. 20 Again he asked, “What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? 21 It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

The Narrow Door
22 Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. 23 Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”

He said to them, 24 “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. 25 Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’

“But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’

26 “Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’

27 “But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’

28 “There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. 29 People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. 30 Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.”

Jesus’ Sorrow for Jerusalem
31 At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.”

32 He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’

33 In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

34 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. 35 Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

LIFE LESSONS
➢ 13:24 — “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.” Not all roads lead to the Lord. Only one does, and that is through Jesus Christ. It’s not that the one true God is exclusive. In fact, he is completely inclusive. Jesus said in John 12:32, “I, when I am lifted up from

the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He offers salvation to everyone and would never turn away someone who put his or her faith in him (Ro 10:9–13). Jesus is the only door to heaven and the only way for us to know the Father (Jn 10:7; 14:6; Ac 4:12), but absolutely everyone has the opportunity to experience his wonderful grace.
excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’

19 “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’

20 “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’

21 “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’

22 “‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’

23 “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. 24 I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”

The Cost of Being a Disciple

25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said:

26 “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—even, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. 27 And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

28 “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? 29 For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it...

The Parable of the Great Banquet

15 When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”

16 Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. 17 At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’

18 “But they all alike began to make L I F E L E S S O N S

14:14 — “You will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” No one ever outgives God. Any kind deed that we do for someone else—without selfish motives, but in Jesus’ name and for his sake—will be rewarded in heaven. The Lord loves to reward his faithful people, especially when we do things for his glory and not for personal gain.

14:23 — “The master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.’” Far from wanting to exclude people from heaven, God desires “all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1Ti 2:4).

14:26 — “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple.” Jesus calls for an exclusive commitment from his disciples. Everything else should pale in comparison to our love for him because he alone must be enthroned in our hearts.
The Parable of the Lost Coin

8 “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins ⁹ and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ¹⁰ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’

10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The Parable of the Lost Son

11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

13 Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’

20 So he got up and went to his father.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

LIFE LESSONS

- 15:6 — “He calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’” The Lord is passionate about redeeming the lost. He takes great joy in reestablishing a close bond with his wandering ones.

- 15:10 — “There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Jesus cannot talk about heaven and about the redeemed who populate it without talking about joy and gladness. Heaven is a very happy place because we have been reconciled to the Lord (Ro 5:11) and have the privilege of enjoying his wonderful presence. Joy is an attribute of God (Gal 5:22), and we will surely be delightfully blessed by our relationship with him forever.
The Parable of the Shrewd Manager

16 Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. 2 So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

3 The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— 4 I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

5 So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

6 ‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

7 The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

8 Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

9 ‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied.

10 ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

11 The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. 12 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

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21 Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 22 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 23 ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

24 The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 25 But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 26 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

27 ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 28 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

LIFE LESSONS

Ø 15:32 — “We had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”

By giving the son a ring, sandals and a robe, the father restored the young man to his position in the family. Likewise, when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, our relationship with him is completely restored and we are given “the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance” (Eph 1:13–14). We are irrevocably adopted into his family, which brings gladness and joy, both for us and for the Lord for all eternity.

Ø 16:10 — “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.” Faithfulness in the

6 Or about 3,000 liters  7 Or about 30 tons
LUKE 16:11

little will also be dishonest with much. 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

13“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

14The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. 15He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.

Additional Teachings

16“The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it. 17It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law.

18“Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

The Rich Man and Lazarus

19“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. 20At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21and longing to
eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

22“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

25“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. 26And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

27“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, 28for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

29“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

30“No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

31“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

LIFE LESSONS

small assignments the Lord gives us qualifies us for the opportunity to serve in greater and more influential ways. Be obedient and faithful where God plants you and watch what awesome things he does through your life.

➢ 16:15 — “What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.” Outwardly, the Pharisees were the picture of religious piety—observing every ritual and faithfully complying with each regulation. They pointed to their wealth as evidence of the Lord’s blessing. Yet they did these things to honor themselves, not God—and the Lord condemned their actions. There is nothing wrong with being successful; the problem arises in how we try to go about it. God says that to be great in the kingdom of heaven we must humbly serve others and glorify him—not flaunt how great we are.

➢ 16:31 — “If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.” God did many wonders through Moses and the prophets and spoke through them about the Messiah, warned his people about judgment and admonished them to take care of the poor. If the rich man’s brothers would not heed their instruction, how could a miracle change their minds? Likewise, Jesus performed all kinds of
Jesus Heals Ten Men With Leprosy

11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” 14 When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. 16 He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

17 Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? 18 Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” 19 Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

The Coming of the Kingdom of God

20 Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people 21 nor will people...

LIFE LESSONS

Sin, Faith, Duty

17 Jesus said to his disciples: “Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come. 2 It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble. So watch yourselves.

“If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke him; and if they repent, forgive them. 4 Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying ‘I repent,’ you must forgive them.”

5 The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

6 He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.

7 “Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? 8 Won’t he rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? 9 Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?

10 So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’ ”

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say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because
the kingdom of God is in your midst.”

Then he said to his disciples, “The
time is coming when you will long to
see one of the days of the Son of Man,
but you will not see it. People will tell
you, ‘There he is!’ or ‘Here he is!’ Do
not go running off after them. For
the Son of Man in his day will be like
the lightning, which flashes and lights
up the sky from one end to the other.
But first he must suffer many things
and be rejected by this generation.

Just as it was in the days of Noah, so
also will it be in the days of the Son
of Man. People were eating, drinking,
marrying and being given in marriage
up to the day Noah entered the ark.
Then the flood came and destroyed them all.

It was the same in the days of Lot.
People were eating and drinking, buying
and selling, planting and building.
But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and
sulfur rained down from heaven and
destroyed them all.

It will be just like this on the day
the Son of Man is revealed. On that
day no one who is on the housetop,
with possessions inside, should go
down to get them. Likewise, no one in
the field should go back for anything.
Remember Lot’s wife! Whoever
tries to keep their life will lose it, and
whoever loses their life will preserve
it. I tell you, on that night two people
will be in one bed; one will be taken
and the other left. Two women will
be grinding grain together; one will be
taken and the other left.”

“Where, Lord?” they asked.
He replied, “Where there is a dead
body, there the vultures will gather.”

Then Jesus told his disciples a
parable to show them that they
should always pray and not give up.
He said: “In a certain town there was
a judge who neither feared God nor
cared what people thought. And there
was a widow in that town who kept
coming to him with the plea, ‘Grant me
justice against my adversary.’

For some time he refused. But fi-
nally he said to himself, ‘Even though
I don’t fear God or care what people
think, yet because this widow keeps
bothering me, I will see that she gets
justice, so that she won’t eventually
come and attack me!’”

And the Lord said, “Listen to what
the unjust judge says. And will not
God bring about justice for his chosen
ones, who cry out to him day and
night? Will he keep putting them off?
I tell you, he will see that they get
justice, and quickly. However, when the
Son of Man comes, will he find faith
on the earth?”

To some who were confident of
their own righteousness and looked
down on everyone else, Jesus told this
parable: Two men went up to the
temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the
other a tax collector. The Pharisee
stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I
thank you that I am not like other
people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or
even like this tax collector. I fast
twice a week and give a tenth of all I
get.’

“But the tax collector stood at a
distance. He would not even look up
to heaven, but beat his breast and said,
‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’
“I tell you that this man, rather
than the other, went home justified
before God. For all those who exalt
themselves will be humbled, and those who
humble themselves will be exalted.”

LIFE LESSONS

Jesus told his disciples a parable to
show them that they should always pray
and not give up. There may be many reasons why
God does not answer our prayers quickly, but
until he lets us know that we should stop pray-
ing about something, he calls us to persevere in
faith and keep asking.
God desires that we develop great faith.

In Matthew 14, we read how the disciples were caught in a frightful situation. A storm swept in suddenly, and the threat of physical harm became very real. Just as they became convinced that they were about to be swamped by the raging sea, Peter looked out and saw what he thought was a ghost walking toward their boat. But it was not a ghost. It was Jesus. So the overzealous disciple called out to him asking the Lord to bid him to come to him.

Thus began a vital chapter in Peter’s chronicle of faith. He climbed out of the boat and started walking toward the Savior. Unfortunately, before the disciple reached his destination, the thunderous, buffeting waves took his attention away from the Savior. He froze in fear and immediately began to sink.

There are a couple of things that we can say about Peter’s quest that are very positive. First, he got out of the boat and began walking to Jesus while the others stayed put. Second, when he began to sink, he cried out to the Lord. Peter immediately understood the situation was too grave for him and that he needed Jesus.

So the Lord reached out to him and pulled him to safety. Then he asked Peter, “You of little faith . . . why did you doubt?” (Mt 14:31). Jesus was not scolding Peter as much as he was teaching the disciple that faith and trust in him were all he needed to reach his goal. The same is true for us.

Have you ever thought about the fact that the way you grow in your faith is by facing challenges and trials? The fact is: this is probably when we grow the most in our walk with Christ. A need arises and there is no way we can fill the void, solve the problem or decrease the pain. We struggle, fight and finally call out to the one person who knows us fully and loves us unconditionally.

We also grow in faith when we learn to listen to and submit to God’s voice. As long as we are chattering and proclaiming our ability, we will never be able to discern his words of hope, direction, correction and encouragement. The Lord is always speaking to us, but if we aren’t hearing from and obeying him, it’s impossible for us to grow in faith.

Peter did the right things: he saw Jesus and he got out of the boat. He wanted to trust the Savior, but his faith was not sufficiently developed. For faith to increase requires our consistency, endurance and watchfulness. We must continue to stand firm in what we believe. When we do, God will provide the strength and hope to persevere. Therefore, persevere in believing what he says to you. Obey and endure because you will certainly see the fulfillment of all his promises.

See the Life Principles Index for more:
9. Trusting God means looking beyond what we can see to what God sees.
24. To live the Christian life is to allow Jesus to live his life in and through us.
LUKE 18:15

The Little Children and Jesus

People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

The Rich and the Kingdom of God

A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

“Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’”

“All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said.

When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy.

Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?”

Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

Peter said to him, “We have left all we had to follow you!”

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”

Jesus Predicts His Death a Third Time

Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again.”

The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.

A Blind Beggar Receives His Sight

As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.”

He called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?”

“Lord, I want to see,” he replied.

Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has healed you.”

Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

LIFE LESSONS

➤ 18:34 — The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them. Why did the disciples so frequently misunderstand Jesus’ words? Can we blame faulty expectations, disobedience or some other cause? Luke says the truth was hidden from them, and they did not understand what Jesus meant until after he rose from the grave (Lk 24:13–49). Thankfully, we now have the Holy Spirit to help us understand how he is directing us (Jn 14:26; 16:13–15; Jas 1:5).
Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

19 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

9 Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

The Parable of the Ten Minas

11 While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. 12 He said: “A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return.”

LIFE LESSONS

➤ 19:10 — “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” The Lord does not merely provide us with an example of godly living, but makes it possible for us to enjoy an intimate relationship with himself. All of us “have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Ro 3:23), which means that we are all lost. Yet Christ came to earth to save us (Jn 3:16–18). He did for us what we could never do on our own (Ro 5:1–2).

➤ 19:12 — “A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return.” Jesus gave a few clues like this one to indicate that he might not return to earth physically for a long time after his ascension. Until he comes again in his glory (Lk 17:24), we are to continue to faithfully do his work in the power of his Spirit—who is always with us (Jn 9:4; 14:16–17,26; 16:13–14).

ZACCHAEUS

A Life That Counts
LUKE 19:1–10

It wasn’t easy being one of the most hated (and shortest) men in the city, but Zacchaeus the tax collector had learned to handle it. His life was characterized by dishonesty and greed. He had not only collected taxes from the people of his hometown, he had also added an extra tariff for himself. He also had learned to overcome obstacles in unorthodox ways—which may be how he ended up in a tree trying to get a glimpse of the Messiah as he passed by.

Jesus knew who he was. He also knew that though Zacchaeus had wealth, his life was void of peace, joy and contentment. So when he saw him peering down from the tree, the Lord said, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today” (Lk 19:5). Within moments, the despised tax collector climbed down from his perch and walked with the Savior to his home.

Have you ever considered how God is willing to meet you right where you are? All he wants you to do is to admit your need for him. He wants you to do what this man did—turn your life over to him.

After meeting Jesus, Zacchaeus stopped cheating the people and promised to restore four times all he had taken. He eagerly surrendered everything he had to Christ. For all his shortcomings, Zacchaeus realized that following the Savior was the only way to true meaning and purpose. He had spent many lonely nights counting money. But from this point on, he wanted his life to count for the kingdom of God.

See the Life Principles Index for more:

4. The awareness of God’s presence energizes us for our work.
23. You can never outgive God.
Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

28 After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 30 "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it.’"

32 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

34 They replied, “The Lord needs it.”

35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. 36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

38 “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

40 “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42 and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.

43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. 44 They will dash you to the ground, you and the distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. 13 So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. "Put this money to work," he said, "until I come back."

14 “But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We don’t want this man to be our king.’

15 “He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.

16 “The first one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned ten more.’

17 “ ‘Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’

18 “The second came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned five more.’

19 “His master answered, ‘You take charge of five cities.’

20 “Then another servant came and said, ‘Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.’

22 “His master replied, ‘I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? Why then didn’t you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?’

24 “Then he said to those standing by, ‘Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.’

25 “‘Sir,’ they said, ‘he already has ten!’

26 “He replied, ‘I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away. But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me.’”

LIFE LESSONS

➢ 19:44 — “You did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.” How is it that the vast majority of people alive in Jesus’ day did not realize that they were in the presence of God in the flesh? More to the point, do we realize it when the Lord is doing something special in our midst?

a 13 A mina was about three months’ wages.

b 38 Psalm 118:26
children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”

**Jesus at the Temple**

When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. “My house will be a house of prayer,” but you have made it a den of robbers.”

Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

**The Authority of Jesus Questioned**

One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts and proclaiming the good news, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him. “Tell us by what authority you are doing these things,” they said. “Who gave you this authority?”

He replied, “I will also ask you a question. Tell me: John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Why didn’t you believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ all the people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John was a prophet.”

So they answered, “We don’t know where it was from.”

Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

**The Parable of the Tenants**

He went on to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out.

“Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.’

“But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. ‘This is the heir,’ they said. ‘Let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

“What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.”

When the people heard this, they said, “God forbid!”

Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

**Paying Taxes to Caesar**

Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be sincere. Every age has its false teachers and religious impostors, ours included. Jesus told us to be on the alert for them—but even more to make sure that we do not become one of them ourselves. Each of us must guard our heart against ungodly teaching and the schemes of...
LUKE 20:21

sincere. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said, so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor. 21 So the spies questioned him: “Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right, and that you do not show partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. 22 Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”

23 He saw through their duplicity and said to them, 24 “Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription are on it?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

25 He said to them, “Then give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

26 They were unable to trap him in what he had said there in public. And astonished by his answer, they became silent.

The Resurrection and Marriage

27 Some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus with a question. 28 “Teacher,” they said, “Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. 29 Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a woman and died childless. 30 The second and then the third married her, and in the same way the seven died, leaving no children. 31 Finally, the woman died too. 32 Now then, at the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?”

33 Jesus replied, “The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. 34 But those who are considered worthy of taking part in the age to come and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, 35 and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God’s children, since they are children of the resurrection. 37 But in the account of the burning bush, even Moses showed that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord ‘the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’a

38 He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.”

39 Some of the teachers of the law responded, “Well said, teacher!” 40 And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Whose Son Is the Messiah?

41 Then Jesus said to them, “Why is it said that the Messiah is the son of David? 42 David himself declares in the Book of Psalms:

“The Lord said to my Lord:

‘Sit at my right hand

until I make your enemies

a footstool for your feet.’” b

43 David calls him ‘Lord.’ How then can he be his son?”

Warning Against the Teachers of the Law

45 While all the people were listening, Jesus said to his disciples, 46 “Beware of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. 47 They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.”

The Widow’s Offering

21 As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the

LIFE LESSONS

unbelievers. We must also be careful to remain in the center of God’s will and under his protection.

➢ 20:47 — “These men will be punished most severely.” God’s judgment will fall more severely on those who pretend to serve him for their own personal gain and who use their religious credentials to deceive others. Although there is no longer condemnation for believers (Ro 8:1), those who faithfully obey the Lord will receive greater rewards than those who disregard their divine assignments or serve God for their own selfish motives. Each will receive what he has earned (Ro 2:5–8; 1Co 3:11–15).
you and persevere you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. 13 And so you will bear testimony to me. 14 But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. 15 For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. 16 You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. 17 Everyone will hate you because of me. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 Stand firm, and you will win life.

20 “When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. 22 For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. 23 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. 24 They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

25 “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.

LIFE LESSONS

➢ 21:13 — “And so you will bear testimony to me.” Just as the imprisonments of the apostle Paul turned out to be divine opportunities to testify about the gospel of Christ (Ac 9:15; Php 1:12), so God will use persecutions to make his Word known.

➢ 21:18 — “Not a hair of your head will perish.” Jesus reminds believers that he will always remain in control, and every detail of our lives will be safe in his loving hands. Although we will certainly face persecution, not a hair of our heads will be touched without his permission. And if we lose our lives for his sake, it will be according to his purpose and timing. Our eternal lives are secure and our victories are guaranteed. So we should not worry, but should always stand firm in our faith in the Lord.

➢ 21:24 — “Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” The “times of the Gentiles” began when the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem in 586 BC, and they will endure as long as Gentiles rule Jerusalem. Although the Jews have had brief control of Jerusalem over the years—especially since the Six Day War in 1967—they will not truly take possession of the city until the Messiah, our Lord Jesus, returns. God promised the land to his people, and he will keep his covenant with them to the end (Ge 13:14–18; 28:10–16; 35:10–12; Ex 6:2–8; Eze 37:24–28).
will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

29 He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

32 “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

34 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. 35 For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

37 Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives, 38 and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

22 Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, 2 and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people. 3 Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. 4 And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. 5 They were delighted and agreed to give him money. 6 He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

The Last Supper

7 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. 8 Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.”

9 “Where do you want us to prepare for it?” they asked.

10 He replied, “As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he

LIFE LESSONS

➢ 21:34 — “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap.” A constant awareness that the Lord could return at any time keeps us spiritually alert and living productively for the kingdom of God. When our focus is on Christ’s second coming, we will not be as concerned with the trivial matters of life but will be motivated to obey him and will diligently work to tell all people of the salvation he offers.

➢ 22:1 — The Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching. The Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread both commemorated how the Lord had delivered the Israelites from their bondage in Egypt (Ex 12). The Passover celebrated how God spared the firstborn sons of Israel when the death angel passed over their houses, which were marked with the blood of a lamb. During the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Jews observed their hasty escape from Pharaoh and how the Lord sustained them in the desert. Jewish men were required to go to Jerusalem to observe these two feasts. Therefore, Jews from every nation were present to witness Christ’s sacrifice on the cross.

➢ 22:3 — Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. Although others such as Saul (1Sa 16:14) and the Gadarene demoniacs (Mt 8:28—33) were tormented by evil spirits, Judas is the only person whom the Bible explicitly says was possessed by Satan. Many Bible scholars believe the antichrist will be as well (Rev 12–13), and both men are called “doomed to destruction” (Jn 17:12; also 2Th 2:3). Yet realize that whenever we refuse to submit to God’s will, we are aiding the enemy’s plan (Jn 8:42–47).
among you as one who serves. 28 You are those who have stood by me in my trials. 29 And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, 30 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

31 “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

33 But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.” 34 Jesus answered, “I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”

35 Then Jesus asked them, “When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?” “Nothing,” they answered. 36 He said to them, “But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. 37 It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.”

38 The disciples said, “See, Lord, here are two swords.” “That’s enough!” he replied.

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

39 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. 40 On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” 41 He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them,

LIFE LESSONS

22:31 — “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat.” When Peter denied Jesus three times, the enemy was invisibly working behind the scenes to encourage his spiritual failure. We must always remain on the alert to detect the activity of our adversary, so we can resist him and stand firm in the faith (1Pe 5:8–11). We must also stay in the center of God’s will so that we will not give the enemy an opportunity to harm us (Eph 4:17–32).

1469 LUKE 22:41

19,20 Some manuscripts do not have given for you . . . poured out for you.

37 Isaiah 53:12
LUKE 22:42

knelt down and prayed, 42 “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” 43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. 44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. a

45 When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. 46 “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

Jesus Arrested

47 While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, 48 but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”
49 When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” 50 And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

51 But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? 53 Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

Peter Disowns Jesus

54 Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. 55 And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. 56 A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, “This man was with him.”

57 But he denied it. “Woman, I don’t know him,” he said.

58 A little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” “Man, I am not!” Peter replied.

59 About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.”

60 Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed.

61 The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” 62 And he went outside and wept bitterly.

The Guards Mock Jesus

63 The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. 64 They blindfolded him and demanded, “Prophesy! Who hit you?” 65 And they said many other insulting things to him.

Jesus Before Pilate and Herod

66 At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. 67 “If you are the Messiah,” they said, “tell us.”

Jesus answered, “If I tell you, you will not believe me, 68 and if I asked you, you would not answer. 69 But from

LIFE LESSONS

➤ 22:42 — “Not my will, but yours be done.” Taking the penalty for every sin ever committed is an unimaginable burden, and it weighed on Jesus’ sinless heart. Yet here the Lord shows us how to gain the victory in the most difficult situations and most heartbreaking circumstances. We must completely submit our will to his wisdom and trust his unfailing love.

➤ 22:61 — The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. What kind of look was it? One that expressed compassion? Disappointment? Resignation? Sorrow? We don’t know. We only know that Jesus used it to remind Peter of his prophetic word, and that look caused Peter to weep.

a 43,44 Many early manuscripts do not have verses 43 and 44.
now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.”

70 They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?”

He replied, “You say that I am.”

71 Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips.”

Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. 2 And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.”

3 So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

4 Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”

5 But they insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”

6 On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. 7 When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort. 9 He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. 10 The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. 11 Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. 12 That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

13 Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people,

and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. 15 Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us: as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. 16 Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.” [17]

18 But the whole crowd shouted, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” 19 (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

20 Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. 21 But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

22 For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.”

23 But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. 24 So Pilate decided to grant their demand. 25 He released the man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

26 As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. 27 A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. 28 Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. 29 For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that

\[\textit{a} \text{ Some manuscripts include here words similar to Matt. 27:15 and Mark 15:6.}\]

\[\text{LIFE LESSONS}\]

23:8 — When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort. Herod had no interest in Jesus as Messiah or Savior; he simply wanted to see wonders performed for him. Yet Jesus refused to speak a single word to the king. No one can ever manipulate him into doing his or her bidding.
Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

The Death of Jesus

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.

The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away.

But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

The Burial of Jesus

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathaea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

LIFE LESSONS

➢ 23:34 — Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” Although their actions were cruel, the Roman soldiers who carried out the crucifixion could not have understood the eternal implications of what they had done—that they were crucifying the Lord. So Jesus extended his mercy to them, just as he offers it to each of us. This is the nature of God’s unconditional love—no matter what we do, he still cares and bids us to return to him. This is also the standard he calls us to. No matter what others do, we must imitate his example of forgiveness (Mt 18:21–35; Eph 4:32).

➢ 23:43 — “Today you will be with me in paradise.” One thief had a change of heart while on the cross, and Jesus accepted his expression of faith as genuine. Did the thief deserve such mercy? No. None of us do. But the point is that God’s grace saves us, not our merit.
On the Road to Emmaus

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

19 “What things?” he asked.

20 “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. 21 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 22 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. 23 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning 24 but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. 25 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

26 He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 27 Did not the prophets predict this would happen?”

The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. 56 Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

Jesus Has Risen

24 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” Then they remembered his words.

9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles.

11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. 12 Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

LIFE LESSONS

» 23:55 — The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. People who want to discredit the resurrection have at times claimed that the disciples went to the wrong grave. But this verse shows that the women carefully noted which tomb held Jesus’ body.

» 24:11 — They did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Because they were heartbroken and disillusioned, it was difficult for the disciples to believe that Jesus really had risen from the dead. It was only after they saw the resurrected Lord and understood his victory over death that they became powerhouse witnesses for him.

» 24:25 — “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!” In many accounts, the disciples did not at first believe that the Lord had risen or recognize him when he appeared to them. Usually it took hearing his voice or seeing him
Satan loves to use fear and doubt to discourage believers. He knows if he can get you to question God, then maybe you will give up and abandon his will for your life. Feelings of fear often accompany feelings of doubt and uncertainty. If left unattended, these runaway emotions can tempt you to stop trusting the Lord and his ability to provide for you.

The first step to turning away from doubt and discouragement is to proclaim your faith in Jesus Christ. When trouble strikes, he is your omniscient help. He also is the only One who truly understands you completely. He knows your weaknesses and strengths. He also knows exactly what is needed to encourage you and lift you up so you can continue walking forward in faith.

Second, set a goal to read God’s Word each day. This is the best way to combat fear and doubt. The Lord uses a daily reading program to train your mind and to teach you how to handle doubt. The book of Psalms highlights many personal battles over emotions such as fear, doubt, loneliness and discouragement. David and others made a conscious decision to trust the Lord through tremendously difficult circumstances and found that God never once failed them.

Third, prayer is essential in fighting fear and doubt. In essence, prayer is faith in action. When we pray, regardless of whether or not we feel like it, we make a statement of faith. We pray because we see God as the solution to what we face. If you are facing a difficult situation, don’t hesitate to ask him to show you the best way to handle it. If your level of trust seems low, don’t worry. The Lord is wise and kind. He wants to teach you more about himself, not frighten you away. And your faith will increase as you get to know him better.

Even if you don’t feel you have the emotional strength to trust God, don’t worry. The Lord is your strength (Ps 18). A. B. Simpson often told those who found themselves in a difficult spot, “When God tests you, it is a good time for you to test Him by putting His promises to the proof, and claiming from Him just as much as your trials have rendered necessary.”

The last thing Satan wants you to do is to go to God in prayer and tell him you feel doubtful. Always be honest with him; he knows it all. Honesty breaks the pattern of doubt and provides the right atmosphere for God to work greatly in your life. Remember, he loves you with an eternal love, and he will provide for your every need.

See the Life Principles Index for further study:
9. Trusting God means looking beyond what we can see to what God sees.
8. Fight all your battles on your knees and you win every time.
the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. 29 But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together 34 and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38 He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see: a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?”

42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.

44 He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

46 He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

The Ascension of Jesus

50 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. 52 Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. 53 And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

LIFE LESSONS

perform some familiar action to open their eyes. Unbelief can blind us to the Lord’s work, but trusting God means looking beyond what we can see to what he sees and is doing. Had they believed in his word through the prophets, they most likely would have anticipated the resurrection with joy instead of being consumed with sorrow.

➢ 24:41 — While they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” Jesus had to prove to his unbelieving disciples that he was not a ghost or figment of their imagination before they would accept the truth of his bodily resurrection. Because we know for certain that his body was raised, we can have full confidence that ours will be as well (1Co 15:50–54).

➢ 24:45 — He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. The things of the Spirit of God are foolishness to the unbelieving natural man (1Co 2:14). It always takes the Lord’s wisdom and influence to help us understand and accept the truth of his Word.