

Bible Studies

SYLLABUS 2018 LUKE'S GOSPEL Chapters 13–24



We now return, God willing, to complete our 2016 review of Luke's gospel account. Please join us to study the great Teacher as He travels through Israel proclaiming the kingdom of God; healing the afflicted, condemning the Pharisees and confounding the scribes. What stands out above all is how He demonstrated that teaching in His own life. He lived for sacrifice, as His road must take Him to Calvary where He gave Himself completely to the will of His Father. 'The one who humbles himself will be exalted', He told those who trusted in themselves for righteousness (18:14); and He proved the truth of that teaching too as, having emptied Himself that He might become obedient even to death, God highly exalted Him. So we see Him one last time, the risen victor over all the enemies of God, ascending back to the Father from whom He came. May our study this year re-ignite those familiar feelings of wonder as we behold again the majesty of the Son in the pages of God's word.

As in previous years, we ask contributors to select and explore only **two or three of the topics suggested**, to minimise overlap between contributions. We welcome too, of course, thoughts on other points in the portion for the month not raised by the syllabus questions.

Please take advantage of our '**Question & Answer**' service, and feel free to follow up a debatable point, or an article on your own subject, via our '**Mail-box**' section.

"Everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures' (Luke 24:44-45 ESV).

NOTES

1. Paper-writers, please note that a shorter article focused on one or up to three sub-topics is most helpful. Articles covering all the passages for the month may have sections removed by editors, so as to make the magazine a more efficient tool for those who consult it.

Papers should **not exceed 500 words**.

2. Papers should be typed with double spacing in the current *Bible Studies* format, i.e. beginning with **From Ourtown:** and on one side of A4 paper. Scripture references added in curved brackets should be written with the book titles abbreviated, a colon between chapter and verse(s), and a hyphen to indicate consecutive verses or a passage:

e.g., Romans chapter 9, verses 14, 15 and 19 to 23 would be typed (Rom. 9:14-15,19-23).

Where it is possible, we prefer contributions to be sent by e-mail. Attachments in Microsoft Word.docx format are preferred.

3. Editorial practice is to use the names of Biblical books in full when they form part of a sentence, but when given as a reference to use the Revised Version abbreviations. References to other works should include at least the title and the author, with preferably the publisher, place and date, with page number.

4. Contributors are asked to indicate the version of Scripture they are using; this greatly eases the task of checking quotations.

5. **Papers on the monthly subject** should be sent to: P. Whitehouse, 1 Orchid Drive, Sheringham, Norfolk NR26 8UU, or pwhitehouse@btinternet.com, and should reach him NOT LATER than the 28th day of the third month prior to the date of publication; e.g. January's paper should arrive by October 28th.

6. **Special articles** of a study nature will be welcomed. **These and other correspondence** should be sent to: M. Archibald, 49 Kinpurnie Road, Oldhall, Paisley, Renfrewshire PA1 3HG Or mn.archibald@gmail.com

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January ‘What is the kingdom of God like?’ (Luke 13)

How can we help those who doubt God because of suffering (13:1-5)?
What was the spiritual lesson from the parable of the fig tree?
How is the kingdom of God like the tree (13:19) and the leaven (13:21)?
What does the narrow door of verse 24 give entry to?

February The Nature of Discipleship (Luke 14)

Discuss three lessons the Lord had for Pharisee and guests (14:1-14).
How the host regarded the excuse-makers and the substitutes (14:15-24).
What does the Lord demand from His disciples (14:25-33)?
Is there no way back for a disciple who has lost his saltiness (14:34-35)?

March The Parable of God’s Love (Luke 15)

Who were ‘the tax collectors and sinners’ (15:1)?
What does this parable tell us about the love of God towards the lost?
What does the younger son tell us about the human condition?
What lesson was the Lord teaching in the attitude of the elder son?

April Faithfulness in Service (Luke 16:1-17:19)

Did the Lord commend dishonesty as a positive spiritual example (16:1-9)?
Who are those who force their way into the kingdom (16:16; cp. Mat. 11:12)?
Are the places in 16:22-26 still the destinations for those who die today?
What characteristics in faithful servants does the Lord commend in 17:5-10?

May ‘The kingdom of God is in the midst of you’ (Luke 17:20-18:43)

What event(s) is the Lord describing in 17:22-37?
Can God’s response to human need depend on our persistence in prayer?
How should the disciple view himself and his possessions (18:14,24)?
Why did the blind man insist on calling Jesus ‘Son of David’?

June ‘Today salvation has come to this house’ (Luke 19)

How did Zacchaeus show himself to be a son of Abraham?
Of what will the Lord expect us to give an account to Him (19:15)?
Does the nobleman represent the Lord (19:22,24)?
Why were the Pharisees so indignant as the Lord entered Jerusalem?
Why did the Lord sorrow so much for Jerusalem (cp. 13:33-35)

July ‘Teacher, you have spoken well’ (Luke 20)

Cp. John 5:19-23: why did the Lord refuse to answer the Pharisees’ question?
How does Psalm 118:22 explain the parable of the vineyard?
How is the Lord’s reply in 20:25 developed in the New Testament?
What error of the scribes did the Lord’s question in 20:41-44 address?

August ‘Then they will see the Son of Man’ (Luke 21)

How does God value what we give?
How far *should* we try to identify the signs of the last days (vv.8 , 28)?
Which generation is the Lord speaking about in verse 32?
Will believers be required to endure the tribulation (vv.34-36)?

October ‘This is your hour, and the power of darkness’ (Luke 22:1-65)

The significance of the Lord not eating the Passover or drinking the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes (v.15-18)
Why is the cup particularly linked with the new covenant (v.20)?
How is it possible to lead from a position of service?
What was behind the Lord’s instruction in 22:36-37?
How can we recover from spiritual disappointment as Peter did (vv.31-34)?

November ‘He delivered Jesus over to their will’ (Luke 22:66-23:56)

Why was 22:69 understood as an expression of His deity?
What insight do we get into the characters of Pilate and Herod?
Explain the proverb in 23:31.
What made the thief believe that Jesus would come into His kingdom (v.42)?
The meaning of the signs accompanying the Lord’s death (vv. 44-49).

December ‘He is not here, but has risen’ (Luke 24)

Comment on Luke’s records of angels attending the ministry of the Lord.
Why did the Lord disappear as soon as the two disciples recognised Him?
What significance does Luke give to the fulfilment of prophecy throughout his book (see vv.27,46)?
How were the disciples equipped to be the Lord’s witnesses?
As you look back over the book as a whole, are there any themes which have particularly stood out?