

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Workbook by Ray Reynolds, Ph.D.



A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap TABLE OF CONTENTS

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This study guide was created in 2008 by Ray Reynolds. It was edited and copyrighted by Reynolds Rap Publications in 2020. The material presented in this class series will be gleaned from personal notes, the New King James Study Bible, Dr. Coy Roper, Dr. Steven Guy, Gleason L. Archer, Dennis Smith, H. Leo Boles, Robert H. Gundry, B.W. Johnson, and other various sources.



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Author:

The gospel of Luke is the third, and the final, of the synoptic gospels. The author wrote anonymously, and in a third person viewpoint, but it is traditionally ascribed to the Gentile physician Luke (Colossians 4:10). Outside of the "we sections" in Acts (Acts 16, 20-21, 27-28), Luke is mentioned three times in the New Testament (Colossians 4:14, Philemon 24, II Timothy 4:11). In all of these cases Luke is accompanying Paul in prison. Luke was one of the most influential Gentiles in the early church.

The Old Testament was penned by Jews, but the New Testament is different. Gentiles, like Luke, played a significant role in the expansion of the church, and their writings were exalted. Luke wrote more of the New Testament than any other man (unless Paul wrote Hebrews), which comprises 25%. The gospel of Luke is the longest book in the New Testament. When Luke and Acts are combined they are longer than the thirteen letters of Paul combined.

Arguably, Luke is the most polished writer of the New Testament with the possible exception of the writer of Hebrews (which he may have also penned). The writings of Luke have a wide vocabulary and nearly 800 words are found in his writings that do not appear anywhere else in the New Testament. With the exception of Luke 1-2, he quotes exclusively from the Greek translation of the Old Testament (LXX). He also ties the genealogy of Jesus to Adam, not just to David or Abraham. Clearly, this plays a part in his overall theme. Also, the medical knowledge and interest in seafaring are apparent in Luke's gospel.

Date:

This book was probably written from Rome in the late 50's or early 60's AD. Some scholars speculate a date of about 62 AD. It would have been written after Paul's two year Roman imprisonment (Acts 28:30-31), but before Paul's trial, otherwise that information would have been included in the conclusion of the book of Acts. Another way we can conclude an early date for Luke is because the apostle Paul quotes Luke 10:7 in I Timothy 5:18.

Theme:

The theme of his gospel seems to be that Jesus is the Son of Man. In the early church, this gospel may not have gained as much popularity as Matthew and Mark, but only because it may not have been regarded well by the early Jewish readers. Gentiles could relate to this theme. However, as Luke's education, scholarship, and view of culture shines through one cannot help but appreciate its value. As he begins his gospel it is apparent that he has collected his material from several eyewitnesses and other written documents, which is unlike the apostle Matthew, and John Mark who is writing for the Apostle Peter, with firsthand information.

Luke is a careful to date the birth of Jesus, noting six rulers of his time. He reveals a fresh new perspective on the nativity scene, the childhood of Jesus, and a glimpse into the boyhood home and relationship with his parents. He includes poetry early on to grab the attention of his readers and pulling them into his narrative.

Audience:

Luke's gospel undoubtedly targets Gentiles. Specifically, his gospel is addressed to Theophilus (**Luke 1:1-4, Acts 1:1**), but noticeably its depth reveals a broader audience. The book of Acts refers to the gospel of Luke as the first book. Therefore, the two books are meant to be seen as volume 1 and volume 2. The second book is a continuation of the work of Christ, the Son of Man, through His apostles.

One unique characteristic of this book is that Luke exalts women. He mentions thirteen women otherwise omitted by the other gospel writers. These women include Elizabeth, the widow of Nain, Anna, Lot's wife, the widow (and her mite), and the ladies who ministered to Jesus in addition to many others. More details are given by Luke on the lives of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42), Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:1-3), and some of the other women who followed Jesus closely. The chapter reveals stories about these women and their homes.

Luke stresses the compassion of Jesus toward the poor. There are many parables about money unique to Luke: the two debtors (Luke 7:41-43), the rich fool (Luke 12:16-21), the unrighteous steward, the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16), and the pounds (Luke 19:13-37). He also takes time to lift up the outcast and underdog: the sinful woman (Luke 7:36-50), the good Samaritan (Luke 10), the word of praise for the grateful Samaritan leper (Luke 9:46-56), the persistent widow (Luke 18:1-8), the praying publican (Luke 18:9-14), Zacchaeus (Luke19:1-10), and the penitent thief on the cross (Luke 23:39-43). The miracles in Luke seem to highlight Christ's work among those often neglected or forgotten. Acts builds on this concept. The sense of realism and genuineness sets Luke apart from the other writers. With the exception of the gospel of John, few writers could connect emotionally with the audience in such a vivid fashion. The gospel is written like a dramatic narrative. He gives prominence to prayer, gently handles the mistakes of the apostles, and describes the agony of the apostles after Jesus' death. He gives his readers a raw view of Jesus in the garden and on the cross.

Key Verses:

Luke 1:29, 2:1-20, 4:4, 4:18-19, 5:32, 6:21, 6:27-28, 6:37, 8:21, 11:9, 11:13, 11:28, 12:22, 13:3-5, 14:7-11, 15:1-32, 16:19-30, 17:24, 18:9-17, 19:1-10, 19:46, 20:34-38, 22:17-22, 23:39-43, 24:25-26, 24:44-49

Outline:

- *I. The Preface* (1:1-4)
- II. The Birth & Early Life of Jesus (1:5-2:52)
- *III.* The Preparation for Jesus' Ministry (3:1-4:13)
- *IV.* The Galilean Ministry of Jesus (4:14-9:50)
- V. The Journey to Jerusalem (9:51-19:27)
- VI. The Jerusalem Ministry of Jesus (19:28-21:38)
- VII. The Betrayal, Trials, and Death of Jesus (22:1-23:56)
- VIII. The Resurrection and Great Commission (24:1-53)



Mary: The Favored One of God

Text: Luke 1:26-38

<u>Introduction</u>: We begin the first chapter with a commentary on the conception of Jesus. Mary is the most famous mother in the entire Bible. She is the mother of Jesus. Luke records numerous examples of bi-polar reversals. Jesus' birth is an example: God chose a lowly virgin, place, and circumstance to bring the Messiah into the world. The point of Luke's entire gospel is that God does not see as man sees. He elevates the humble and humbles the elevated. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Gabriel's Greeting - Mary Is Surprised & Troubled By God's Elevation Why do you think God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother?

Why do you think God chose for him to be born of a virgin?

Why is Mary so surprised by the messenger of God?

II. Gabriel's Reassurance - Mary Is In Awe & Confusion With God's Elevation Is it all right to be confused by the will of God? Explain.

Who really benefits from God's service?

Why does God always try to encourage His children?

III. Gabriel's Explanation - Mary Is Humble & Obedient To God's Elevation Why do you think Mary chose to be a servant of God?

What can we learn from Mary's humble submission to God's will?

How can we be more like Mary and Joseph?

<u>Conclusion</u>: Mary's response developed through a three-part dialogue with Gabriel (from the troubled state of v.29, to the questioning of v.34, to this final unreserved readiness for God's purpose in v.38), reveal that God picked Mary for a reason (fearful but open, defensive but honest, and she was reserved but willing). Though she claimed no special heritage by this world's standards, Mary was given a special status, blessings, fellowship, and favor by God. Remember that God sees not as man sees.



They Lost Jesus!

Text: Luke 2:41-52

<u>Introduction</u>: It's hard to believe, but they actually lost Jesus! It is a familiar story to most of us, but have you really ever looked closely at the story found in **Luke 2:41-52**? There are some really good lessons to learn!

Discussion:

I. Joseph and Mary Lost Jesus
How did Joseph and Mary lose Jesus?

Where did they finally find Him?

What was His excuse for being lost?

II. We Lose Jesus

Is it possible to lose Jesus today? Explain.

How do we lose Jesus?

Why would someone be so careless?

III. We Can Avoid Losing Jesus

How can we avoid losing Jesus?

How can we help others that are losing Jesus?

Who is the most at risk for losing Jesus?

<u>Conclusion</u>: Like Joseph and Mary we also can lose Jesus. Many have lost Him and will never find Him again. If we keep near to the Savior, and remain aware of the possibility of danger, and the consequences of losing Him, we will never lose Jesus! Have you lost Jesus?



The Baptism of Jesus Text: Luke 3:1-22

<u>Introduction</u>: One of the most significant parts of the ministry of Jesus is how it all began. First, we need to learn about the context. Who was John the Baptizer? Why was Jesus immersed at the hands of John the Baptizer? What exactly took place there on that day? Read our text with me and find out

Discussion:

*I. Jesus Was Baptized Because He Is The Son of God*What can we learn about the character of John (**Isaiah 40:1-2**, **Malachi 4:5-6**)?

What can we learn about the character of Jesus (John 1:29)?

Who was usually cleansed for holy service?

*II. Jesus Was Baptized Because As An Example of Obedience*Why did He submit to the Father's will (Matthew 3:15, Psalm 119:172)?

Why did He delight in the Father's will (Psalm 119:40:8)?

Why did He live according to the Father's will (John 17:1-5)?

III. Jesus Was Baptized Because As A Preview to the Gospel Why did the early church command it (**Acts 2:38**)?

Why did the early church submit to it (Acts 2:41)?

Why must we also follow their example (Acts 2:38-47)?

<u>Conclusion</u>: We may not understand all the reasons why Christ submitted to baptism. We have a limited view of that wonderful event. However, we must submit to God and follow His word. Have you been baptized like Jesus? Are you ready to be forgiven?



A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap The Trials of Life & The Tools of the Devil

Text: Luke 4:1-13

<u>Introduction</u>: Our text today brings a great contrast to **Genesis 3**. In fact there is a great contrast between the two "Adams." Both Adam and Jesus faced three aspects of temptation. Adam yielded, bringing upon humankind sin and death. Jesus resisted, resulting in justification and life. The same three trials Satan used on Adam he used on Jesus. He continues to use the same three tricks. Can we defeat him? Can we learn from Adam and Christ? Let's study together...

Discussion:

- I. The Lust of the Flesh I John 2:16
 - A. "The tree was good for food" (Genesis 3:6).
 - B. "Command this stone to become bread" (Luke 4:1-4).
 - C. Children of the world want to have their lusts fulfilled.
 - D. Children of the Lord want to fulfill His desires.
 - E. How can we avoid this temptation?
- II. The Lust of the Eyes I John 2:16
 - A. "It was pleasant to the eyes" (Genesis 3:6).
 - B. "Showed him all the kingdoms of the world" (Luke 4:5-8).
 - C. Children of the world want to see everything.
 - D. Children of the Lord want to look good in His eyes.
 - E. How can we avoid this temptation?

III. Pride of Life - I John 2:16

- A. "Tree desirable to make one wise" (Genesis 3:6).
- B. "Throw Yourself down from here" (Luke 4:9-12).
- C. Children of the world want to be someone and do something.
- D. Children of the Lord want to be servants and laborers for Him.
- E. How can we avoid this temptation?

<u>Conclusion</u>: **Luke 4:13** reminds us that Jesus was strengthened after this trial. We can be strengthened in our trials of life. He will be by our side in the battle (**Matthew 28:20**, **Romans 8:31**). And when the battle is over He will strengthen us (**Philippians 4:13**). We have the opportunity to be children of God and face these temptations. Satan has used the same tools for centuries, you think we would learn. We can defeat the devil and endure to the end (**Revelation 2:10**). He will never allow us to face something we cannot endure (**I Corinthians 10:13**). Are you a child of God or a child of the world?



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We Have Seen Strange Things Today! Text: Luke 5:17-26

<u>Introduction</u>: One of the most memorable things in Jesus' ministry was His miracles. It is interesting to me that on many occasions He used a miracle to teach. Sometimes He would say something about it and other times He would just let His actions speak instead of His words. The story we will study today is one that brought about much controversy.

Discussion:

- I. The Power of the Lord (vs.17-19)
 - A. The Miracles of Jesus
 - How would you like to see a miracle?
 - B. The Ministry of Jesus
 - How would you like to be a witness to Jesus' ministry?
 - C. The Men That Believed in Jesus
 - Do you think you would have believed Jesus?
- *II.* The Love of the Lord (vs.20-24)
 - A. The Faith of the Men
 - Why do people lack such faith?
 - B. The Forgiveness of Jesus
 - Why did Jesus forgive the man?
 - C. The Future Believers
 - How can we benefit from this story?

III. The Healing of the Lord (vs.25-27)

- A. The Response of Jesus
 - How would you respond to weak people?
- B. The Rejoicing of the Man
 - Why didn't everyone rejoice after the miracle?
- C. The Reaction of the Crowd
 - How would you have reacted?

<u>Conclusion</u>: Lowering of a man through the roof, seeing the forgiveness of man by Jesus, a rebuking to the teachers, and then a miracle. How would you feel? They glorified God but were fearful because they realized the authority of Jesus. We should give God the glory He deserves and thank Him for His works.



A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap What's Love Not Got To Do With It?

Text: Luke 6:27-38

<u>Introduction</u>: Our society thinks about revenge more than forgiveness. Sometimes bumper stickers display our real philosophy of life! How did we get this way? Let's study together about what it means to be a true follower of Jesus...

Discussion:

- I. As True Disciples We Are To Love Our Enemies (vs.27-28)
 - A. Loving our enemies means that we have to bless them.
 - B. Loving our enemies means that we have to pray for them. *Why do you think God commands us to love our enemies?*
- II. As True Disciples We Are To Refrain From Retaliating Against Our Enemies (vs.29-30)
 - A. In order to refrain from retaliation we must not hold a grudge.
 - B. In order to refrain from retaliation we must not seek revenge. Why do we seek revenge when people treat us terribly?
- III. As True Disciples We Are To Live By The Golden Rule Concerning Our Enemies (v.31)
 - A. The golden rule includes commitment.
 - B. The golden rule includes sacrifice. *How can you practice the golden rule?*
- IV. As True Disciples We Are To Do Good To Our Enemies (vs.32-35)
 - A. Doing good to our enemies includes radical acts of generosity.
 - B. Doing good to our enemies includes radical acts of kindness. *What does it mean to do radical things?*
- V. As True Disciples We Are To Be Merciful To Our Enemies (v.36).
 - A. The mercy of God is a good parallel because we were enemies.
 - B. The mercy of God is a good parallel because we are sinners. *How can we better appreciate the mercy of God?*
- VI. As True Disciples We Are To Avoid Judgmental Spirit Concerning Our Enemies (vs.37-38)
 - A. In order to avoid a judgmental spirit we need to be careful not to condemn.
 - B. In order to avoid a judgmental spirit we need to be willing to forgive. *Why is it so difficult to forgive and forget?*

<u>Conclusion</u>: How should we treat our enemies? If we are true followers of Jesus, His disciples, then we must love them, do good to them, and pray for them. We have to be willing to let God fight our battles for us, when it is out of our control, and there is nothing left for us to do. God will be with us always (**Matthew 28:20, Romans 8:31**).



A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap The Saint/Sinner & The Sinner/Saint

Text: Luke 7:36-50

Introduction:

- 1. Luke gives the thesis of his inspired book in Luke 1:1-2, Acts 1:1.
- 2. It is a "narrative of the things which had been fulfilled among us and delivered to us" "of what Jesus began both to do and to teach."
- 3. This particular section seems to be played out like a movie with five parts, not really five acts but we will call them "moves" in order to appreciate the flow.
- 4. Read the entire text with me

Dis		

Move I: The No	t-So Friendly Pharisee (vs.36-39)	
<u>Expound</u>	: What really happened?	
<u>Explain</u> :	Why did this happen?	
<u>Examine</u>	: What would you have done?	
Move II: The W	eepy Woman (vs.37-39)	
<u>Expound</u>	: What really happened?	
<u>Explain</u> :	Why did this happen?	
<u>Examine</u>	: What would you have done?	
Move III: The P	erfect Parable (vs.40-43)	
<u>Expound</u>	: What really happened?	
<u>Explain</u> :	Why did this happen?	
<u>Examine</u>	: What would you have done?	
Move IV: The A	ggressive Application (vs.44-47)	
<u>Expound</u>	: What really happened?	
<u>Explain</u> :	Why did this happen?	
<u>Examine</u>	: What would you have done?	
Move V: The Fa	aith That Brings Forgiveness (vs.48	8-50)
	: What really happened?	<u> </u>
Explain:	• • • •	
<u>Examine</u>	: What would you have done?	

Conclusion:

- 1. What do you see in this story? (The woman? Jesus? The Pharisee? You?)
- 2. I would hope that we can see all of them, but we can make application from all of the lessons we learn in this story.
- 3. Have you tried to make Jesus into your image?
- 4. Have you allowed Him to touch you with love and mold you in His image?



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Are You Sowing The Seed of the Kingdom Brother?

<u>Text</u>: Luke 8:4-18

<u>Introduction</u>: This is such a great parable and it has such a wonderful meaning. The same parable is found in **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**. A parable is an "earthly story with a heavenly meaning." The purpose of the parables were to (1) conceal and (2) reveal (Jesus explains this in our text vs.9-10). This is why he says, "*He who has ears, let him hear*." Let's study together about the parable of the sower.

Discussion:

- *I.* Challenge #1 The Sower
 - A. Career The sower has an interesting story.

Where did he come from?

Why is he sowing?

Who will sow with him?

When will he stop?

B. Commitment - This sower is really dedicated (he has done this before). Does he know what he is getting into?

Does he know the success/failure ratio?

Does he know the types of soil/people he will run into?

Does he know the success stories of those whose lives he would impact?

- B. Conclude Success or failure, good or bad, he never gives up.
- *II.* Challenge #2 The Soil (People are like the soil the farmer faces.)
 - A. The Seed Along The Path (vs.5, 12) II Corinthians 4:4
 - C. The Seed On Rocky Ground (vs.6, 13) Proverb 17:24, Ephesians 4:14
 - D. The Seed Among The Thorns (vs.7, 14) Matthew 6:24, James 1:14
 - E. The Seed On Good Soil (vs.8, 15) **John 15:1-8**

<u>Conclusion</u>: We have to meet the challenges of evangelism; we can't give up!!! How has the seed landed in your heart? Are you willing to be a sower and produce fruit? "*He who has ears, let him hear*."



A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap Totally Committed To Following Jesus

Text: Luke 9:23-27, 57-62

<u>Introduction</u>: What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus Christ? We all know what He has done for us, but what exactly does He want from us. Are there certain things He desires for me to do? What commandments are the most important to follow?

Discussion:

- I. Following Jesus = Denying Yourself (v.23) Matthew 16:24
 - → How can you deny yourself?
- II. Following Jesus = Bearing Your Cross (v.23) Galatians 6:1-2
 - → What does it mean to bear your cross?
- *III.* Following Jesus = Directing Your Steps (v.23) **Jeremiah 10:23**
 - → Why does God command us to let Him direct our steps?
- IV. Following Jesus = Losing Your Life (vs.24-25) **Hebrews 9:27**
 - → How can you lose your life and save it at the same time?
- V. Following Jesus = Supporting Your Master (vs.26-27) Romans 6:15-23
 - → Who deserves all of our support? Why?
- VI. Following Jesus = Forgetting About Material Comforts (vs.57-58) Matthew 6:24
 - → Why should you stop focusing on material things?
- VII. Following Jesus = Neglecting Other Responsibilities (vs.59-60) Matthew 6:33
 - → How can neglecting your responsibilities get you into trouble?
- VIII. Following Jesus = Pursuing Him Until Death (vs.61-62) **Revelation 2:10**
 - → What does it mean to follow Jesus until death?

<u>Conclusion</u>: Are you willing to do these things to become a follower of Jesus? Have you neglected some of these responsibilities? Are you ready to start again anew?

As a Christian, I promise to give my life totally to living like Jesus. In everything I say, do, and think, I hope to become more and more like Him. I am committed to follow Jesus wherever He leads me. And I believe that He will always remain by my side.

Christian Believer Witness



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The Fairly Good Samaritan

Text: Luke 10:25-37

<u>Introduction</u>: If the church could grasp the context of this story, and applied the lesson that should be learned, it would revolutionize the church. First, we need to understand the verses prior to the story (vs.25-29). Second, remember that he asked Jesus the questions. Finally, we need to consider the lawyer. This parable is really a story that relates to anyone in any culture. We need to be a good, not a fairly good, neighbor...

Discussion:

- I. Who Will Your Neighbor Be?
 - A. Character #1 The Traveler (v.30)

 What would you do if this happened to you?
 - B. Character #2 The Thief (v.30)

 What kind of a neighbor was this guy?
 - C. Character #3 The Priest (v.31)

 Why do some people refuse to get involved to help others?
 - D. Character #4 The Levite (v.32)

 What benefit is it to be a rubber neck?
 - E. Character #5 The Samaritan (v.33)

 Who would be willing to go out of their way? Why?
- II. How Will You Respond To A Neighbor In Need?
 - A. Choice #1 We Can Respond Like The Thieves Beat Him!
 - B. Choice #2 We Can Respond Like The Priest Ignore Him!
 - C. Choice #3 We Can Respond Like The Levite Despise Him!
 - D. Choice #4 We Can Respond Like The Samaritan Help Him!
- *III.* What Can We Learn From This Story?
 - A. Christians must show love to their neighbor. *How can you show love to your neighbor?*
 - B. Christians must show compassion to their neighbor.

 How can you be more compassionate toward your neighbor?
 - C. Christians must show mercy to their neighbor. *Why must we show mercy to our neighbor?*

<u>Conclusion</u>: Notice the dialogue at the end (vs.36-37). Jesus asked the man to tell him which was the real neighbor. The lawyer could not bear to say the "Samaritan," so he said the one that "*showed mercy*." Jesus told him to go and do likewise. Who are you in the story? Who would you like to have as a neighbor? Remember the Golden Rule (**Matthew 7:12**).



A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap *Ask, Seek, Knock. Can It Be Any Easier?*

Text: Luke 11:1-13

<u>Introduction</u>: Have you ever been told something that was to good to be true? Jesus makes a promise to us that is so simple it almost hurts. The only problem is I have to live up to my end of the bargain. Jesus begins by telling a story (vs.1-8). It's a great story, but how does this apply to me? Let's study together...

Discussion:

- I. Ask, And It Will Be Given
 - A. All you have to do is ask.
 - B. If you ask you will receive.

What is it that you really want to ask for, more than anything?

Will you ask for it? Explain.

Why are people afraid to ask for what they want?

What is the strangest thing anyone has ever asked you for?

- II. Seek, And You Will Find
 - A. All you have to do is seek.
 - B. If you seek you will find.

What is it that you want to find, more than anything?

Will you seek it out? Explain.

Why do people travel great distances to find things that they want?

What is the most unique thing that you own?

III. Knock, And It Will Be Opened

- A. All you have to do is knock.
- B. If you knock the door will be opened.

If you were given a trip to anywhere in the world, where would you like to go?

What does it mean to knock on the door of opportunity? Explain.

Why are people afraid to knock on doors that belong to strangers?

How can we become more comfortable with doing things that are different?

<u>Conclusion</u>: As if we are so ignorant to understand verse nine Jesus repeats it in verse ten. He feels obligated to explain the greatness of our heavenly Father. We are no more than rebellious children of God, but when it comes to our own children we will do anything for them (vs.11-12). How is God any different (v.13)? He is even better, and greater, than us. As Christians we will never be found wanting when we ask, seek, and knock.



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Our God, Is An Awesome God!

Text: Luke 12:22-34

<u>Introduction</u>: Is there anyone more awesome, greater, or more good than our God? If God is so great and awesome, why do I still worry? If God is so good to me, then why do I doubt? Jesus has already dealt with the rich fool (vs.13-21) and now wants us to talk about worrying? He makes a bold statement to His disciples in vs.22-23 and now He wants to explain it to us. Let's study together...

Discussion:

- I. Are You Worried About Your Life? (vs.24-28) God is the answer!
 - A. Don't worry about your stomach (v.24). → "Lust of the Flesh." *Why do we worry about our next meal?*
 - B. Don't worry about your appearance (vs.25-26). → "Lust of the Eyes." *Why do we worry about what we are going to wear?*
 - C. Don't worry about your possessions (vs.27-28). → "Pride of Life." *Why do we worry about all of the things we have?*
- II. Are You Worried About Your Security? (vs.29-31) God is the answer!A. Don't have an anxious mind (v.29).Why do we fill our minds with things that are out of our control?
 - B. Don't have a worldly attitude (v.30). *How can we avoid an attitude of worldliness?*
 - C. Don't worry about God's provisions (v.31). Who can supply all our needs? Why don't we trust Him more?
- III. Are You Worried About Your Treasure? (vs.32-34) God is the answer!
 A. You need the Father's good pleasure (v.32).

 How can you know that God is good?
 - B. You need to do good deeds (v.33). Why does God command us to do good deeds to others?
 - C. You need to have a good heart (v.34). *What does it mean to have a good heart?*

<u>Conclusion</u>: Life is more than food and possessions (all of these will pass away). The body is more than something that needs covering (the inside=soul). Jesus plainly teaches us to not worry about things that are out of our control. And, to put it simply, nothing is in our control, so stop worrying! Jesus moves on from this teaching to discuss His second coming. We have to be ready and concerned about more important matters.



A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap *Is The Majority Always Right?*

Text: Luke 13:22-30

<u>Introduction</u>: In America today, everything is based on a majority rules type system. We call it democracy, and it usually works very well. However, when the most votes win sometimes the minority is left to have to agree with, and follow, what the majority has done or passed. Even though this is a good system, it has led to a false assumption. The majority is not always right! We need to remember passages like **Matthew 7:13-14** and the one in our text that remind us that sometimes we need to go against the majority. When we seem to be in the crowd, we need to check the road map! Let's study together...

Discussion:

- I. Is There A Wrong Way? Yes, The Broad Way Leads To Destruction
 - A. The way to destruction is very accommodating (Matthew 35:24-25, Luke 12:20-22).
 - B. The way to destruction is very appealing (II Timothy 3:2-5, Hebrews 11:24-25).
 - C. The way to destruction is very accepting (**Revelation 21:8, Mathew 15:19**).
 - D. Why do some people prefer the broad way?
- II. Is There A Right Way? Yes, The Narrow Way Leads To Life
 - A. Jesus reminds us that there are few laborers (Matthew 9:37).
 - B. Jesus reminds us that there are few chosen (Matthew 20:16).
 - C. Jesus reminds us that there are few saved (Luke 13:23-34).
 - D. Why would people want to avoid the narrow way?

III. How Can We Find Our Way?

- A. We can find our way to through the narrow gate by loving God (Matthew 22:37).
- B. We can find our way to through the narrow gate by obeying God (Romans 6:17).
- C. We can find our way to through the narrow gate by walking w/ God (**Ephesians 4:1**).

<u>Conclusion</u>: Where are you traveling? Fads and popular things will change. However, God will never change! Will you follow the majority?



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Who Will Enter The Gate? Text: Luke 14:1-35

<u>Introduction</u>: In our last lesson we noted that there is only one road to heaven. This narrow path leads to heaven's gate and everlasting life. We can follow the path most of our lives, but how can we guarantee entrance into the gates of heaven? If these religious men were called workers of iniquity and rejected by Christ, what did they do wrong? What can we learn from them? Let's study together...

Discussion:

- I. Those Who Need Healing (vs.1-6)
 - A. All of us need healing.
 - B. All of us are sinners.
 - C. All of us must desire to enter the gate.
 - Why do people choose not to ask God for help when they need it?
- II. Those Who Humble Themselves (vs.7-11)
 - A. Humble people do not seek honor.
 - B. Humble people do not seek selfish desires
 - C. Humble people do not seek exaltation.
 - What does it mean to be a humble person?
- III. Those Who Help Others (vs.12-14)
 - A. Help those who cannot help themselves.
 - B. Help those who cannot repay the debt.
 - C. Help those who truly need it.
 - How can we become more aware of the needs of others?
- IV. Those Who Heed The Invitation (vs.15-24)
 - A. Will you reject the invitation?
 - B. Will you accept the invitation?
 - C. Will you share the invitation?
 - What do you think about the invitation of Jesus?
- V. Those Who Hate This World (vs.25-35) In this context, hate means simply to love less.
 - A. We must be committed to being a true disciple.
 - B. We must be committed to follow Christ.
 - C. We must be committed to finish the task.
 - Why do people give up so quickly? How can you avoid doing that?

<u>Conclusion</u>: Do you really want to enter that heavenly gate? We cannot give up half way down the road and expect to receive our reward. We must give our entire lives to God, just as Jesus gave His entire life for us. You are the only one that can make this decision.



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Lost & Found Text: Luke 15:1-34

<u>Introduction</u>: Jesus spent most of His time with people who messed up. He was criticized by the Pharisees for associating with sinners. Christ told the parable of the prodigal son to confront their self- righteousness. This chapter is one that we all should take to heart. Jesus teaches how important it is to be saved, and how God truly feels. Let's study together...

Discussion:

- I. How Do We Become Lost From God?
 - A. Like a sheep (vs.1-7). **Psalm 100:3, 103:13, Mathew 9:36, Hebrews 2:1** * What can we learn from this story? How can you relate to the story?
 - B. Like a coin (vs.8-10). **Luke 15:9, Galatians 6:2*** What can we learn from this story? How can you relate to the story?
 - C. Like a runaway child (vs.11-24). **Luke 15:7, II Timothy 4:10** * What can we learn from this story? How can you relate to the story?
 - D. Like a jealous child (vs.25-32). **Luke 5:27-32, 15:29** * What can we learn from this story? How can you relate to the story?
- II. Steps To An Ungodly Life (Luke 15:11-32)
 - A. Desire (v.12)
 - B. Demand (v.12)
 - C. Departure (v.13)
 - D. Dissipation (v.13)
 - E. Destitution (v.14)
 - F. Degradation (vs.15-16)
- *III.* Cleaning Up An Ungodly Life (Luke 15:11-32)
 - A. Realization (v.17)
 - B. Repentance (v.18)
 - C. Returning (vs.19-20)
 - D. Resignation (v.21)
 - E. Restoration (v.22)
 - F. Rejoicing (vs.23-24)
- IV. How Does God React When We Mess Up?
 - A. He searches for you when you're lost.
 - * Why is it important to remember that God looks for me?
 - B. He rejoices over you when you're found.
 - * What does it mean to have God rejoice for me and over me?

<u>Conclusion</u>: God can clean up any life, no matter how messed-up. When the prodigal son came home he found what he needed. If you want safety, security, and salvation you will not find it away from God. God will receive any sinner that is willing to repent (**Luke 15:7, Acts 17:30**).



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A Message From The Dead Text: Luke 16:19-31

<u>Introduction</u>: We often debate whether or not this was a literal account. We often miss the importance of this story. I have another interesting twist to this story. If Lazarus could have raised from the dead, what would he have preached? If you were Lazarus, and you raised from the dead, what would you preach? I think his sermon would be one of salvation and revival!!! Let's study together...

Discussion:

- *I.* God Is So Good = Paradise a Place of Comfort
 - A. We need to recognize His desire for His children. Genesis 1-2.
 - B. We need to recognize His dedication to His children. John 3:16-17.
 - C. We need to recognize His direction for His children. **James 1:17** *Why is God so good to us?*
- *II.* God Is So Just = Hades a Place of Torment
 - A. His justice is sure. Hebrews 2:1-3
 - B. His justice is patient. II Peter 3:9
 - C. His justice is severe. **Romans 11:22** *Why did God create a place of torment?*
- *III.* God Is So Wronged = Rich Man
 - A. God has to ask man, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3-4).
 - B. God says, "They have rejected me" (I Samuel 8:7).
 - C. God asks, "How often would I love and forgive?" (Hosea 1:11).
 - D. God asks, "Will a man rob God?" (Malachi 3:8). Why do people treat God poorly?
- IV. God Is So Deserving = Lazarus
 - A. He is deserving because of His care. Exodus 3:7, I Peter 5:7, Psalm 8
 - B. He is deserving because of His charity. John 3:16, Romans 5:6-8
 - C. He is deserving because of His cause. **Haggai 1:7**, **John 4:35**, **Ephesians 2:8-10** *What should we really be doing for God?*
- V. God Is So Clear = Us
 - A. God is clear about souls. Jonah 4:6-11, Matthew 28:18-20.
 - B. God is clear about talents. Matthew 25:24-30, Matthew 7:21
 - C. God is clear about restoration. Galatians 6:1-2, James 5:20, Revelation 2:4-5
 - D. God is clear about salvation. Luke 15, Revelation 7:10, 12:10, 19:11 Why do people hesitate to follow God?

<u>Conclusion</u>: What does the Lord require of a person to be saved? What would you say if you were Lazarus? What would you preach?



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Remember Lot's Wife! Text: Luke 17:22-37

<u>Introduction</u>: In our text Jesus deals with His second coming. He is trying to make people aware that we have to be prepared everyday for Him to come again. One illustration that He uses is Lot's wife. You probably remember the historical context (**Genesis 18-19**). Why was she destroyed? Answer: "*To Much Salt Ruined Her Day!*" What lessons can we learn from that example? How can we be better prepared because of this story? Let's study together...

Discussion:

- I. She Died Even Though She Was Lot's Wife
 - A. She perished even though she was the wife of a righteous man. Romans 4:3
 - B. On judgment day God will not ask if we had faithful relatives. **II Peter 2:7-8** *What can you learn from her family background?*
- II. She Died Even Though She Was Righteous
 - A. She perished even though she was considered a righteous woman. Romans 8:1
 - B. On judgment day God will not ask if we went to church. **John 15:1-8** *What can you learn from her spiritual life?*
- III. She Died Even Though She Was Warned
 - A. She perished even though she had ample warnings. Luke 9:62
 - B. On judgment day God will not ask if we read the Bible. **James 1:22, 4:17** What can you learn from her faithfulness to God?
- IV. She Died Even Though She Was Nostalgic
 - A. She perished even though her sin seems so small. Luke 9:62
 - B. On judgment day God will not ask if we committed major sins. Romans 3:23 What can you learn from her interests in her community?
- V. She Died Even Though She Was Separated From Sodom
 - A. She perished even though she left the sinful town of Sodom. I John 2:1
 - B. On judgment day God will not ask what we gave up for Him. **John 3:16** *What can you learn from her past?*

<u>Conclusion</u>: When it comes right down to it, what does God want from you? On judgment day will He be concerned about who you married, if you went to church, if you read the Bible thru every year, if you committed the "big" sins, or what all you sacrificed to follow Him? No. He will want to know if we are covered by the blood of the lamb. If so, then are you faithful to Him as His bride? Have you committed yourself to take up your cross daily?



Are You Making A Good Investment?

Text: **Luke 18:18-34**

<u>Introduction</u>: Do you consider yourself to be a financial wizard? Do you play the stock markets? Do you understand the terms "bonds, long-term investment goals, or portfolio" means in a financial context? There are some simple basic investment principles that are helpful to understand when it comes to Christian living (Goal + Action = Reward). In our text we will see the consequences of not having a complete plan for the future. Let's consider what kind of investments we need to make to plan for eternity. Let's study together...

Discussion:

- *I.* Are You Looking For A Good Investment? (vs.18-21)
 - A. The Person = A Rich Young Ruler
 - B. The Christ = Good Teacher
 - C. The Ouestion = What Must I Do To Inherit Eternal Life?
 - D. The Answer = Live A Holy Life (Why only ½ of the 10 and why only these 5?) What can we do to better invest in our future?
- II. What Investment Will Bring Maximum Rewards? (vs.22-25)
 - A. Sacrifice = Sell Everything
 - B. Service = Give To The Poor
 - C. Security = You Will Have In Heaven
 - D. Submission = Follow Me

How can we assure ourselves that we are doing these four things?

- *III.* What Requirements Will You Have To Meet? (vs.26-34)
 - A. You need to know the banker. John 14:6, Acts 4:12.
 - B. You need to understand the terms. Matthew 7:21, Acts 2:28
 - C. You need to offer some collateral. Matthew 6:33, 16:24.
 - D. You need to enjoy your investment. **James 2:26** *Who issues these requirements? Why is that important to remember?*

<u>Conclusion</u>: Please remember that **Psalm 68:19** says, "*Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with His benefits (burdens), the God of our salvation*." I don't know about you but I need those kinds of burdens! Let's allow God to handle the rest of our burdens!!!



A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap We're Singing The Song Of Salvation!

<u>Text</u>: Luke 19:1-10

<u>Introduction</u>: Jesus had tried to teach His disciples about saving the lost. Now it was time to show them what it was like to save the lost. He uses a little man named Zacchaeus, a tax collector, for an object lesson. Let's study together...

Discussion:

- I. Salvation Implies A Lost State
 - A. Mankind is lost. Genesis 2-3, Ecclesiastes 7:20
 - B. Mankind is sinful. Romans 3:23.
 - C. Mankind is unworthy. **Romans 6:23**, **Isaiah 64:6** *Why do you think God offered us a way of salvation?*
- II. Salvation Reveals A Living Savior
 - A. Jesus lived to deliver us. John 3:16
 - B. Jesus died to deliver us. Revelation 20:14-15
 - C. Jesus rose to deliver us. I Corinthians 15:1-4
 - D. Jesus is coming to deliver us. Hebrews 9:27-28
 - E. Jesus' name alone can deliver us (Acts 4:12).

What would have happened if God chose not to send Jesus?

III. Salvation Demands A Loving Switch

- A. We must hear the gospel message. Romans 10:17
- B. We must believe in Jesus Christ. John 8:24
- C. We must repent of our sin. Luke 13:3
- D. We must confess our faith in Jesus Christ. Matthew 10:32
- E. We must be baptized for the remission of sins. Mark 16:16
- F. We must live a faithful life. **Revelation 2:10** *Why do people refuse to follow the plan of salvation?*
- IV. Salvation Provides A Lasting Security
 - A. We hear the voice of God (**John 10:1-5, 27**).
 - B. We are protected by God (John 10:7-10).
 - C. We are kept by God (John 10:11-13).
 - D. We are known by God (John 10:14-16).
 - E. We are loved by God (John 10:17-18, 28-30).
 - F. We follow the voice of God (John 10:27).

How can we have assurance and security when it comes to salvation?

<u>Conclusion</u>: **John 10:28** says we have eternal life, shall not perish, and cannot fall. However, we have to remain in His hand and at His side. Are you singing yet? If you are saved, you should be singing the song of salvation!



A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap *Will You Be Accepted or Rejected?*

Text: Luke 20:9-19

<u>Introduction</u>: We really have little knowledge of what was going on in the mind of Christ as He drew closer to Calvary. However, I would argue that His parables told His story. We have heard it said that "You cannot not tell your story!" How did Jesus feel at this time? (**Matthew 21, Mark 12**). Let's read the text and see for ourselves...

Discussion:

- I. Application of the Story
 - A. The Vineyard Owner = Working (v.9)
 - B. The Vinedressers = Wickedness (v.9)
 - C. Servant #1 = Obedient (v.10)
 - D. Servant #2 = Faithfulness (v.11)
 - E. Servant #3 = Perseverance (v.12)
 - F. The Son = Respect (vs. 13-16)

What else can we learn from each character in the story?

- *II.* Explanation of the Story
 - A. The Vineyard Owner = The Lord
 - B. The Vinedressers = The Jews
 - C. The Servants = The Prophets
 - D. The Son = The Christ

Which of the characters in the story do you relate to the most?

- III. Significance of the Story
 - A. The Ingratitude of Man (Romans 1:21)
 - B. The Rebellion of Man (Romans 12:19)
 - C. The Grace & Patience of God (Ephesians 1:7-10)
 - D. The Irrationality of Sin (II Peter 3:1-10)
 - E. The Justice of God (Hebrews 10:30-31)

How can better appreciate the life of Christ after reading this story?

<u>Conclusion</u>: As our text closes we see that Jesus was the one that was being rejected. Do you accept Jesus or do you reject Him? What do your actions say to others? What about to God? Based on the decisions you have made will you be accepted or rejected by God?



The Widow's Might

Text: **Luke 21:1-4**

<u>Introduction</u>: It is interesting to note the way that Luke writes his gospel account. He shows how the exalted were humbled, and how the humbled were exalted. The widow in this story is one of the most famous stories in all the Bible. However, her story is only told in four short verses. We can learn some things from her giving. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. She Gave RegularlyWhat did she do? (Luke 21:1-4)What should I do? (I Corinthians 16:2)

II. She Gave PersonallyWhat did she do? (Luke 21:1-4)What should I do? (I Corinthians 16:2)

III. She Gave ProperlyWhat did she do? (Luke 21:1-4)What should I do? (I Corinthians 16:2)

IV. She Gave LiberallyWhat did she do? (Luke 21:1-4)What should I do? (II Corinthians 9:6)

V. She Gave Purposefully
What did she do? (Luke 21:1-4)
What should I do? (II Corinthians 9:7)

VI. She Gave Cheerfully
What did she do? (Luke 21:1-4)
What should I do? (II Corinthians 9:7)

VII. She Gave Willingly
What did she do? (Luke 21:1-4)
What should I do? (II Corinthians 9:7)

<u>Conclusion</u>: We can learn a lot from this widow and her two mites. I am sure that we could glean a lot more from this story, but time will not permit us to consider more than these seven points. Don't ever forget the widow's might!!!



A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap Walking With Jesus The Last Mile of the Way

Text: Luke 22:1-71

<u>Introduction</u>: Jesus was despised and rejected by man ("Man of Sorrows" - **Isaiah 53:3-8**). The "last mile of the way" is a powerful study. I want us to consider Jesus in Gethsemane, His betrayal, and His trials. Let's study together...

Discussion:

- I. The Garden of Gethsemane
 - A. Before The Garden
 - 1. The Son of Perdition
 - 2. The Passover
 - 3. The Promise
 - B. In The Garden
 - 1. When? Thursday night
 - 2. Where? The Mount of Olives
 - 3. Whom? The Disciples
 - 4. What was the Lord doing? Praying
 - 5. What was He feeling? Distress
 - 6. What did He say? "Abba, Father"
 - 7. What can we learn? We must pray

II. The Betrayal & Arrest of Jesus

- A. By whom was He betrayed? Judas
- B. What was his motive? Covetousness
- C. What was the price of betrayal? 30 pieces of silver
- D. What about the arrest of Jesus? At night
- E. What can we learn from the betrayal? Ignorant
- F. Who did Peter strike? Malchus
- G. What can we learn from Judas's example? Example of Apostasy

III. The Trials of Jesus

- A. What about the trials? Illegal
- B. What was on trial for? Three Matters
- C. What about Pilate? Indifferent
- D. How many stages of these trials? Three Stages
- E. What can we learn from the trials? The Application

IV. Peter's Denial of Jesus

- A. Why did he betray Jesus? Overconfidence
- B. How did his speech betray Him? Geographically & Spiritually
- C. What did Peter do? Wept bitterly

<u>Conclusion</u>: Its hard walking with Jesus the last mile of the way. However, the walk is not over, in the next lesson we will see His final steps to the cross.



A Publication of Ray Reynold Rap Christ, My Substitute On The Cross

<u>Text</u>: Luke 23:1-49

<u>Introduction</u>: After the trials, Jesus was brought before the people. When given the choice, the people chose to release Barabbas and to crucify Jesus on the cross. Jesus was the substitute for Barabbas, but more importantly He was our substitute on the cross. We were all willing participants in His crucifixion because of our sin. His death was no accident, it was an accomplishment of divine order. Let's study together...

Discussion:

- I. He Was The God-Provided Substitute (Romans 5:8)
 - A. God provided this substitute because He loves us (**John 3:16**).
 - B. God provided this substitute because Christ was willing (John 10:17-18).
 - C. God provided this substitute because He required it (**Romans 8:32**).
 - \Rightarrow What does this mean to you?
- II. He Was The Once-For-All Substitute (Romans 6:10)
 - A. He died for the sins of the past (**Genesis 1-2**).
 - B. He died for the sins of the present (Matthew 5:17-18).
 - C. He died for the sins of the future (Hebrews 7:26-27).
 - ⇒ What does this mean to you?
- III. He Was The Sin-Made Substitute (II Corinthians 5:21)
 - A. He had no sin (**Hebrews 4:15**).
 - B. He suffered for sin (I Peter 2:21-25).
 - C. He became sin (I John 2:2).
 - \Rightarrow What does this mean to you?
- IV. He Was The Curse-Bearing Substitute (Galatians 3:10-13)
 - A. We need to understand the word curse. Galatians 3:10, 13
 - B. We need to understand the word redemption. I Corinthians 6:20
 - C. We need to understand the word substitute.
 - \Rightarrow What does this mean to you?

<u>Conclusion</u>: When you look to the cross, you are humbled. Jesus took your place. Those were your wounds and punishment. Praise God for Jesus Christ! I thank God that Jesus was my substitute! What have you done to show the Lord you are grateful for this sacrifice?



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The Wounds of Jesus

Text: Luke 24:36-43

<u>Introduction</u>: Many of us are looking forward to having all of our wounds, blemishes, and sickness removed. However, Jesus' wounds will remain forever (**Revelation 5:6**). Why did the Son of God allow His wounds and scars to remain? Doesn't He have the power to erase them? These wounds are marks of His passion, to redeem mankind. His suffering for us was done willingly, and He chose to keep the scars. Let's study about these scars...

Discussion:

- I. His Wounds Are His Way of Teaching
 - A. They established His identity (**Luke 24:36-40**)
 - B. They convinced His disciples (John 20:24-29).
 - C. They prove His love (**II Corinthians 5:21**).
 - D. What do His wounds teach you?
- II. His Wounds Will Be the Theme of Eternity
 - A. The angels were in awe at His birth (Luke 2:1-21).
 - B. The angels were in awe at His life (I Timothy 3:16).
 - C. The angels were in awe at His death (**Zechariah 13:6**).
 - D. Why did God allow Jesus to keep His wounds in Heaven?
- III. His Wounds Are His Trophies
 - A. He was victorious over sin (**Romans 4:25**).
 - B. He was victorious over Satan (Hebrews 2:14-15).
 - C. He was victorious over death (Revelation 1:17-18).
 - D. Why did Jesus want to keep His wounds?
- IV. His Wounds Prove He Was Triumphant
 - A. His wounds prove that He will judge the people (**John 5:26-27**).
 - B. His wounds prove that He will reward the righteous (John 3:16).
 - C. His wounds prove that He will condemn the wicked (John 3:17-18).
 - D. How are His wounds a symbol of victory?

<u>Conclusion</u>: We need to reflect on the wounds of Jesus. Without them we would not be saved. Thank God for the sacrifice of His son! Have you followed the teachings and example of Jesus? Keep reading the book of Acts to see the second part of Luke's writing. The story of Christianity is just beginning!