

Read through the Bible



The Gospel of Luke Week 6



Monday, March Twenty-Six

When men and women are trained for our military, they are reminded of what is required of them in the heat of battle: courage, strength, discipline, execution, but most importantly, a focus on the welfare of the team. While every soldier goes into battle with some degree of worry, they are trained to know that their fellow soldiers will have their back should something go wrong. In today's passage, Jesus reminds His disciples that He will always have their back as they face all kinds of persecution.

Read: Luke 21:1-38

Reflect: Use the passage to work through these questions

- What was the difference between the rich peoples' offering and the poor widow's offering? (see verses 1-4)
- What event is Jesus foreshadowing in verse 6?

40 years after Jesus, the Romans attacked Jerusalem and destroyed the temple. Jesus knew this would happen, and had spoken about it at various points throughout His public ministry.

- How does Jesus describe the persecution His disciples will face? (see verses 12-18)

It must have been very difficult for the disciples to hear about the kinds of persecution they would face for being a follower of Jesus. While we may not face the same challenges the disciples faced a little over 2000 years ago, there are many people in others parts of the world who do. How fortunate we are to be surrounded by people who share our same Christian faith!

- How can we trust what Jesus says? (see verse 33)

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

Take some time to pray for those who are persecuted all around the world for professing their Christian faith. Pray that they may be able to "stand firm" as they bear testimony about Jesus (v. 19).

Tuesday, March Twenty - Seventh

Important occasions and celebrations often take place around a meal. Whether it is Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, a birthday party, an anniversary celebration, or a graduation, the meal serves as the core of the experience. In today's passage, Jesus and His disciples gather together for one final meal.

Read: Luke 22:1-46

Reflect: Use the passage to work through these questions

- Why does Judas go to the chief priests? (see verse 3)
- According to Jesus, who is the greatest among them? (see verses 25-27)

If you talk to some servers in the restaurant industry, they will tell you that they often get treated poorly by the patrons. In this section of Luke, Jesus answers an interesting question – who is greater: the patrons or the server? In the eyes of the world, the patrons would be considered “greater” because, after all, they're the ones sitting at the table enjoying the meal. But as Jesus shows His disciples, the one who serves others is the one who is greater. Throughout the Gospel of Luke, Jesus has consistently shown us that the meek, the lowly, the poor, the last, and the servants are those who demonstrate His love and mercy to others.

- How does Jesus demonstrate His humanity on the Mount of Olives? (see verses 41-44)

We sometimes forget that Jesus was both fully God *and* fully man. As fully God, He was ready to face the task of dying on the cross. But as fully man, the coming task weighed heavily on His heart. It is here on the Mount of Olives where we see Jesus as one who can personally identify with our own weaknesses and sorrows.

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

Take a moment today to serve someone else. It could be a family member, a friend, a neighbor, a coworker, or even a stranger.

Wednesday, March Twenty - Eighth

On the TV show *This Is Us*, people had been waiting nearly two seasons to find out what happened to one of the main characters. Episode after episode, the series continued to build and build towards this big moment. Finally, this past February, the show's fans got to tune in after the Super Bowl to see how everything turned out. In today's passage, the moment the entire Gospel of Luke has been building towards has finally come. During these final days of our journey together, we will get to experience an up-close account of these harrowing (and joyous) moments of Jesus' final days on earth.

Read: Luke 22:47-71

Reflect: Use the passage to work through these questions

- Why did Jesus question the crowd's need to arrest Him with swords and clubs? (see verses 52-53)
- How does Peter react to his own denial of Jesus? (see verses 60-62)

Earlier that evening, Peter proclaimed that he was ready to go with Jesus to prison and to death (see 22:33). How disheartening it must have been for Peter to deny Jesus so quickly after His arrest!

- How did the chief priests and teachers of the law ultimately find Jesus guilty? (see verses 70-71)

In a court of law, witnesses and physical evidence are needed to mount a convincing case against the defendant. But if the defendant makes a personal admission of guilt, the case is much easier to prosecute. While Jesus was not guilty in the eyes of God, His personal admission before the chief priests and teachers of the law was all they needed to find Him guilty of blasphemy.

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

When do you find yourself most tempted to deny Jesus before others? Take some time to reflect on Peter's example.

Thursday, March Twenty-Ninth

After high school one afternoon, a sophomore student heads over to the nearby park to hang out with his friends. When he arrives, he sees that one of his friends has somehow acquired a pack of cigarettes and a lighter. He passes them around, and the students begin to light up. The sophomore student knows he is not of age to smoke and doesn't want to smoke, so he passes the box without taking one. The leader of the group suddenly looks at the student, saying, "C'mon! Take a cigarette." The other boys chime in, but the student still refuses. The group becomes more adamant and aggressive toward him, until finally, he gives in and takes a cigarette. In today's passage, Pilate gives in to the pressure of the chief priests and the angry crowd by handing Jesus over to be crucified.

Read: Luke 23:1-25

Reflect: Use the passage to work through these questions

- How does Luke 20:22-26 refute the assembly's accusation of Jesus in verse 2?
- When Pilate found no basis to charge Jesus, how did the chief priests and the crowd respond? (see verse 5)

Pilate didn't believe that Jesus' claim to be the Christ was worthy of a death sentence. When the chief priests and the crowd realized this, they resorted to other reasons, particularly Jesus' ability to stir up the people with His teachings. When people want to make someone else look bad, they will often go to great lengths to make that happen.

- How did the crowd win over Pilate and get him to have Jesus crucified? (see verses 16-25)

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

How do the pressures of our culture challenge your Christian faith? Take a moment to thank God for giving us His Word, His Savior, and a community of believers to support us during those difficult times.

Friday, March Thirtieth

It is difficult to see the 'good' in Good Friday. Over the centuries, people have provided many theories and reasons as to why we call this day 'good.' For most scholars and historians, though, the term 'good' is synonymous with 'holy.' To speak of Good Friday is to speak of a holy day in the life of God's church. In today's passage, we will witness the holy death of Jesus. Like His followers who surrounded the cross on that dark, dark day, we too will experience the anguish, the sorrow, the pain, and the humanity of our humble Savior, Jesus.

Read: Luke 23:26-49

Reflect: Use the passage to work through these questions

- How does Jesus put things into perspective for those who are mourning His impending death? (see verses 28-31)
- How did Jesus choose to respond to the people who had crucified Him? (see verse 34)

The heart of our Christian witness to others can be found in Jesus' response to the people who had crucified Him. Even when He was wronged to the point of death, He still chose to forgive. That is what He did for us, and that is what He calls us to do for others.

- What were Jesus' final words before His death? (see verse 46)

33 or so years on earth had led Jesus to this very moment. But as He committed his spirit to the Father, Jesus knew that this would not be the end. A better day would soon come, a day the world would eventually come to revere as 'great.'

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

On a day like Good Friday, many emotions and thoughts can fill our hearts and minds. At your own pace, take some time to reflect on the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Consider what He did for us.

Saturday, March Thirty-First

Fred Rogers, the host of the much beloved television show *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, once said, "Our society is much more interested in information than wonder. In noise rather than silence...Oh my. This is a noisy world." On a day like today, it might benefit us greatly to spend some time in silence, prayer, and reflection. Today's passage is intentionally short so that you can do just that.

Read: Luke 23:50-56

Reflect: Use the passage to work through these questions

- How do verses 50-51 show us that not everyone on the Council agreed that Jesus should be crucified?
- How was Joseph able to obtain Jesus' body? (see verse 52)

Joseph had many things working for him that allowed him to retrieve Jesus' body: 1) he was an upright and wealthy man who would have been highly favored by the leadership; 2) he did not appear to be directly associated with Jesus; and 3) Pilate tried to wash his hands of the situation earlier, and so this was his final way of doing so.

- Why did the women choose to wait until the next day to anoint Jesus' body with spices and perfumes? (see verses 55-56)

It's important to note that the women didn't come to the tomb Easter morning expecting to see the resurrected Lord. Instead, they simply went on Sunday because Sabbath law forbid them from doing this sort of work the day before.

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

Take a few minutes to flip back through the pages of Luke's Gospel. Take a look at and think about the many experiences and situations Jesus' disciples had experienced with Him. How do you think they might have felt the day after His death? How might you have felt?

Sunday, April First

He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! As we reach the final day of our journey through the Gospel of Luke, we spend today in joyous celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Let our voices resound in praise as we echo the spirit of that famous hymn, *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*:

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

Read: Luke 24:1-53

Reflect: Use the passage to work through these questions

- How did the women find out Jesus had risen from the dead? (see verses 4-8)
- What was the "talk of the town" according to the two men on the road to Emmaus? (see verses 17-24)
- When did the men recognize Jesus? (see verses 30-31)
- How did Jesus prove He has resurrected in bodily form, not just in spirit? (see verses 37-39)
- How did the disciples return to Jerusalem? (see verse 52)

Respond: Apply what you've learned in prayer and action

Amidst the Easter celebrations you experience today, take a moment to thank God for fulfilling His promises in Jesus.

Well, that's the end of the Gospel of Luke! I pray your time in God's Word has filled you with both joy and wonder as you reflected upon the life and ministry of Jesus. It has truly been a pleasure reading along with you! Happy Easter, and I'll be back in early June for two weeks with our next book...2 Corinthians. – Vicar Chris

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