



THE BOOK OF
LUKE

LIFE GROUP GUIDE: UNIT 6

October 13 - December 1, 2024

Luke 16:1-18 | October 13, 2024

In this passage, Jesus is demonstrating the importance of using worldly resources for eternal purposes. He warns about the dangers of serving two masters of God and wealth and teaches the value of faithfulness in small things.

Read Verses 1-9

The master praises the manager for his shrewdness. How do you interpret the idea of being shrewd in a way that honors God? Why does Jesus commend the dishonest manager's shrewdness in the parable (verses 8-9)? What might it mean to "use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves"?

Read Luke 16:10 and Matthew 6:19-21

Discuss the relationship between being faithful in small things and being entrusted with greater responsibilities. How does this principle apply to our wealth? How does it apply to other things in life?

Read Luke 16:11-12 and Luke 6:38

In what way does the person stay the same regardless of how much wealth they possess? Have you seen this play out in your life or in the lives of others around you?

Read verses 13-17

Jesus clearly says we cannot serve both God and money. How can we ensure that our pursuit of financial security doesn't come in conflict with our loyalty to God?

Why does Jesus rebuke the Pharisees in verses 14-17? What does this tell us about God's view on outward righteousness vs. the inward heart?

Key Takeaways:

- Use worldly resources wisely for eternal purposes. Jesus encourages us to think beyond the temporary value of material wealth and to invest in what will last eternally, especially in relationships and advancing God's kingdom.
- Faithfulness in little leads to trust in greater things. God values faithfulness, whether in managing small tasks or material resources.
- We must choose our master: God or money. We cannot serve both God and money. Jesus calls us to make God our priority, ensuring that our relationship with Him takes precedence over the world.

Prayer Prompt:

- Ask God to show you the things in your life that you have put in his place as Lord. Take a moment and reflect on how you treat things whether you have little or if you have much. Pray for an ongoing desire to be faithful with all realms of life, including your wealth and generosity.

Luke 16:19-31 | October 20, 2024

This passage details the rich man who lived in luxury, and Lazarus, a poor beggar, who suffered greatly. After death, their roles reversed—the rich man found himself in torment while Lazarus was comforted with Abraham in heaven. This parable emphasizes the realities of death, the importance of evangelism, and the eternal consequences of ignoring God's call to repentance.

Read verses 19-26

What contrasts do you see between the rich man and Lazarus in life and in death? How do the differences between their earthly experiences and their eternal destinations reflect how God's kingdom operates?

Read verses 27-31

Why do you think the rich man wanted Lazarus to warn his family, and why was this request denied?

Abraham tells the rich man that if his family won't listen to Moses and the Prophets, they wouldn't believe even if someone rises from the dead. How is this relevant to the world today?

How does this parable challenge the way we think about wealth and eternal life?

The rich man's plea for his family shows that after death, there's no chance for change. How does this passage emphasize the importance of choosing to follow God now?

How ought this passage change the way we view evangelism to our family and loved ones?

Key Takeaways:

- Earthly wealth and status do not guarantee eternal security. True security comes from a life that has faith in Jesus Christ.
- The time to respond to God's call is now - This parable emphasizes the finality of death and the urgency of repentance in this life. After death, the opportunity to turn to God has passed.
- There are truly only two destinations when we die: heaven or hell.

Prayer Prompt:

- Thank God for sending his Son Jesus to go to the cross and provide a way for eternal life. Thank Him for granting you the knowledge of the Gospel while you were still alive and were given the opportunity to be saved from eternity in hell. Pray for your loved ones and those who you know who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Luke 17:1-19 | October 27, 2024

Read verses 1-4

Jesus warns about leading others into sin and how serious it is. What are some ways we can avoid causing others to stumble in their faith, especially new believers or those who are struggling?

Jesus says to forgive someone who sins against you even if they sin and repent multiple times. How does this reflect God's heart for forgiveness? Why is it difficult to live this out in our relationships?

Read verses 5-10

The disciples ask for more faith, but Jesus tells them that even a small amount of faith can move mountains. What does this tell us about the nature of faith and its role in our lives? How can we have even "mustard seed" faith?

Jesus teaches us that we shouldn't expect praise or reward for simply doing what is expected of us. How does this change the way we view our service to God and others? What does it mean to serve with humility?

What does it mean to have a sense of 'unworthiness' in our walk with God?

Read verses 11-19

Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?" What do you think might have caused the others to neglect returning to express gratitude? How can we guard against taking God's blessings for granted in our own lives?

Key Takeaways:

- Following Christ requires that we ourselves walk in righteousness, but we also need to encourage others to walk in righteousness. The greatest thing we can do for others is to encourage them to follow Christ. The worst thing that we can do for others is cause them to sin.
- Nothing that we do should be for recognition. Instead, we ought to be faithful out of an overflowing sense of unworthiness. Much like someone who makes the team that they were severely underqualified to play for, they will play faithfully because they were never supposed to be there in the first place.

Prayer Prompt:

- Pray for those around you and that you would be a beacon of gospel hope and not something that will cause them to fall into sin. Ask the Lord for increased faith. Thank the Lord for giving you the unwarranted opportunity to be a citizen of heaven.

Luke 17:20-37 | November 3, 2024

Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees and His disciples about the coming of the Kingdom of God. He explains that the Kingdom is not something that can be observed in a physical sense but is already present in their midst. He teaches about the suddenness of His return and the need for readiness.

Read verses 20-24

What does Jesus mean when He says the Kingdom of God is “in your midst”? How does this change our understanding of God’s kingdom? How is the Kingdom present among us today?

Jesus says people will say “look there!” or “look here!” but the coming of the Son of Man will be like lightning. Why does Jesus warn His disciples not to be misled by people claiming to know when God’s kingdom will arrive? How does this affect the way we should think about prophecies or claims about Jesus and the kingdom of God?

Read verses 25-37

Jesus compares His return to the days of Noah and Lot, when people were living ordinary lives before judgment came. How should we live with readiness for Christ’s return? What does it mean to be prepared?

Jesus emphasizes the cost of following Him. How does this challenge our affection for worldly things and our priorities in life? What does it look like to “lose your life” for Christ?

At His coming, people will be divided, with some taken and others left behind. What does this say about personal responsibility in our relationship with God? How should this shape our concern for the salvation of those around us?

Jesus warns that His return will be sudden and unexpected. How can we live with a sense of urgency and purpose, knowing that Christ could return at any moment? What habits or attitudes need to change to reflect this readiness?

Key Takeaways:

- The Kingdom of God is already present among us. Jesus tells us that God’s kingdom is not a distant, observable event but is already here, working in and through the Church.
- Christ’s return will be sudden and unexpected. We must live prepared, not getting caught up in the distractions of the world but focusing on our relationship with God and eternal things.
- Jesus calls us to lose our lives for Him, meaning we are to value Him above all else and live for His kingdom, not for temporary earthly gain.

Prayer Prompt:

- Ask the Lord to help you to live in constant readiness for His return. Ask for a heart that is focused on His kingdom and for the salvation of others. Pray earnestly for his return and for all things to be reconciled.

Luke 18:1-17 | November 10, 2024

This passage gives us a few important qualities of a Christ follower. Two of them being persistence and humility. Persistence is another expression of our childlike dependence on God. Much like a child is persistent when they desire something. Humility is largely how we view ourselves in relation to others and in relation to God. Jesus is sharing how these qualities are best applied in our lives.

Read verses 1-8 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

Why is it essential for us to persist in prayer even when the answers seem delayed? How does your persistence in prayer reflect your trust in God's faithfulness?

Jesus reassures us that God will bring justice to those who call on Him. Why do we sometimes struggle with waiting for God's timing? How does persistent prayer help us align with God's timing?

Read verses 9-14, James 4:10, and Isaiah 64:6

In this parable, Jesus is highlighting the importance of humility in our prayers. The Pharisee relied on his own righteousness, while the tax collector humbled himself before God.

How does humility help us be more persistent in seeking God's help rather than relying on our own abilities?

How does self-righteousness hinder us from being persistent in our dependence on God?

Read verses 15-17 and Matthew 18:3

Jesus teaches that we must receive the kingdom of God with the humility of a child. How does maintaining childlike faith help us remain persistent in our trust and dependence on God?

What steps can we take to nurture a childlike humility in our relationship with God?

Key Takeaways:

- The Christ follower needs to be persistent in prayer.
- We are to approach God in humility, not in our self-righteousness.

Prayer Prompt:

- Bring the things to the Lord, yet again, that you need his help with. Ask him, as a child would ask their father, to provide for you. Pray for God's will to be done, that you would desire for yourself what he desires for you. Bring to the Lord the areas where you feel self-righteous, where you have trusted in your ability to live a holy life and neglected to lean on him.

Luke 18:18-30 | November 17, 2024

Read verses 18-22

Jesus tells the rich ruler to sell everything he has and follow Him. Why do you think Jesus asks for such a radical commitment? What might Jesus be asking us to let go of in our own lives to follow Him more fully?

How does this challenge our views on wealth, security, or success?

Read verses 23-25

Jesus says it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. Why do you think wealth can be such a significant barrier to following Jesus? What are some practical ways we can ensure that material wealth doesn't take priority over our relationship with God?

Read verses 26-27

When the disciples hear Jesus' words about wealth, they ask, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus responds, "What is impossible with man is possible with God." What does this reveal about the nature of salvation? How does this statement give us hope in the areas where we feel weak or inadequate in following Christ?

Read verses 28-30

How do you understand the rewards that Jesus mentions here? How does this perspective on eternal rewards motivate or challenge you in your walk with Christ?

The rich ruler struggles to surrender his wealth to follow Jesus. What things in your life might you be holding onto that hinder you from fully following Christ? How can we support each other in surrendering these areas to God and trusting Him more deeply?

Key Takeaways:

- Following Christ means giving up anything that competes with our devotion to Him, including wealth, possessions, or ambitions.
- No amount of human effort or goodness can earn salvation—it is only by God's grace and Christ's finished work on the cross that anyone can be saved.

Prayer Prompt:

- Pray that the Lord would remain the top priority in your life. Ask Him for more faith, more focus, and the desire in your heart to long for Him and his kingdom. If there are areas of your life that you love more than God, bring them to him and repent. Prayer for the resources you have and how he would have you use them for His kingdom.

Luke 19:1-27 | November 24, 2024

After the salvation of Zacchaeus, Jesus shares with the crowd a story that is identical to a political event that most of the listeners were aware of. Right before the birth of our Lord, Israel was under Roman authority and rule. Herod the Great, being the ruler of the dynasty, appointed local leaders to the regions and he appointed Mark Antony to the region of Israel. After his death in 4 B.C, one of his sons, Archelaus, was appointed ruler. Archelaus was a tyrant who would slaughter thousands of Jews to prove his authority. He was a ruler that was hated by many, and when he visited Rome to be confirmed, Judea sent a delegation to Rome to remove his leadership. His tyrannical rule continued, and most of Jesus' listeners were aware of it. Jesus is using this reality to share a parable about the rule and reign of Christ and how many will not desire his leadership. Many will reject him as king.

Read verses 1-10

Zacchaeus went to great lengths to see Jesus by climbing a tree. What does this say about his desire to encounter Christ?

Read verses 11-27

In the political landscape of their day, how might the listeners have responded to Jesus sharing this story as an example of Jesus' lordship?

Who are the main characters of the parable and who might they represent in the kingdom of God?

When the master returns, he holds each servant accountable for how they used their mina. What does this teach us about the reality of being accountable for how we live our lives and manage the resources God has given us?

The servant who hides his mina out of fear and the people who reject the king face serious consequences. What does this reveal about the importance of accepting Jesus' authority and using our lives for His glory?

How can we move from fear or complacency to greater boldness in serving God's purposes?

Key Takeaways:

- Jesus will save the least likely of sinners.
- Jesus has supreme authority and there is a cost to not only submitting to his authority but there is a greater cost to rejecting it.

Prayer Prompt:

- Thank the Lord for all that he has given you. Spend a moment and reflect on all of the blessings of your life. Thank Him for salvation. Ask Him to provide for you wisdom and faithfulness on how to best manage the resources he has given you. Ask Him how you can best glorify Him with your life.

Luke 19:28-48 | December 1, 2024

Read verses 28-40 and Zechariah 9:9

Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a colt, fulfilling the prophecy of a humble king. What does this say about the nature of Jesus' kingship?

The crowds praised Jesus as He entered the city, but not everyone acknowledged Him as king. How can we live in a way that acknowledges Jesus as Lord in all areas of life?

How does this Triumphal entry compare to how people view Jesus today?

Read verses 41-44

Jesus weeps over Jerusalem because the people did not recognize the time of God's coming. Why do you think they missed the significance of Jesus' arrival?

Read verses 45-48

Jesus drives out the merchants from the temple, declaring that His house should be a "house of prayer." What was happening in the temple and why was it an abomination to Jesus? If the Church is now God's dwelling place, would Jesus bring the same judgment on the people within it as he did with those in the Jerusalem temple? How so?

The religious leaders sought to destroy Jesus because His actions threatened their control. Why do people resist or reject Jesus' authority?

How can we "hang on" to the words of Christ?

Key Takeaways:

- Jesus is the triumphant King that is almighty, yet gentle and lowly at heart.
- Despite the miracles and teachings of Jesus, many in Jerusalem did not recognize Him as the Messiah. Many today still do not believe.
- The greatest way to silence the adversaries of Christ is to hang on to His words and proclaim them with our lives.

Prayer Prompt:

- Spend some time reflecting on the Lordship of Christ. Think of all the marvelous things he did to demonstrate it in the scriptures and all the ways he remains Lord over all. Pray for God's Church and the purity of its worship.