

Ch. 1 (V. 1-4)

- 1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,
- 2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;
- 3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,
- 4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold (v. 5-25)

- 5 There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.
- 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.
- 7 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.
- 8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,
- 9 According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.
- 10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.
- 11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.
- 12 And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.
- 13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.
- 14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.
- 15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.
- 16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.
- 17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.
- 18 And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.
- 19 And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.
- 20 And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.
- 21 And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple.
- 22 And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.
- 23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.
- 24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,
- 25 Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

The Birth of Jesus Foretold (v. 26-38)

26 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Mary Visits Elizabeth (v. 39-45)

39 And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;

40 And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

42 And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

43 And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

44 For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

45 And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

Study Questions

Ch. 1:1-45

1. Who wrote the book of Luke? To whom and to what readers was it aimed? What were the important characteristics of this Gospel?

2. How did Luke assure the accuracy of what he wrote? Why is this important? (1:2-4)
3. Why was Zechariah rendered unable to speak until the prophecy's fulfillment? (1:19-20)
4. What can we learn from Zechariah and Elizabeth to help us handle long-term disappointments? What long-term frustration in your life needs to be entrusted to God?
5. How did Mary's response to the angel differ from Zechariah's? (1:18, 34, 38) What do Mary's responses to Gabriel tell us about the kind of people through whom God works?
6. What can you do to maintain a servant's attitude in your day-to-day living? In what ways can you develop the kind of humble spirit that Mary had?
7. What two remarkable things happened when Mary called her greeting to Elizabeth? (1:41)
8. In Vs 1:45, what spiritual principle did Elizabeth express?

Ch. 1:46-80 Ch.2:1-7

Mary's Song (v.46-56)

- 46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,
- 47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
- 48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
- 49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.
- 50 And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.
- 51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 52 He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.
- 53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.
- 54 He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;
- 55 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.
- 56 And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

The Birth of John the Baptist (V. 57-66)

- 57 Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son.
58 And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.
59 And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father.
60 And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John.
61 And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name.
62 And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called.
63 And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all.
64 And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God.
65 And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea.
66 And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.

Zechariah's Song (V. 67-80)

- 67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,
68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,
69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;
70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:
71 That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;
72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;
73 The oath which he sware to our father Abraham,
74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,
75 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.
76 And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;
77 To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,
78 Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,
79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.
80 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.

Ch. 2 The Birth of Jesus (v. 1-7)

- 1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.
2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)
3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.
4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)
5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Study Questions

Ch. 1:46-80

1. What happens to people who fear God (1:50)? What happens to those who are proud of themselves (1:51)?
2. What actions of God in Mary's song (1:48-54) have you observed or experienced?
3. What is the significance, meaning, or story behind your name?
4. What two groups celebrated the birth of Zechariah and Elizabeth's baby? (1:58) With whom would you like to celebrate a special event?
5. How did the family and friends respond to the birth of John? How do you react when someone you know has cause to celebrate?
6. How important is it for children to hear from their parents what God's place ought to be in their lives? (Zechariah's song 1:67-79)
7. What can people learn from Zechariah about passing on faith to their children?

Study Questions

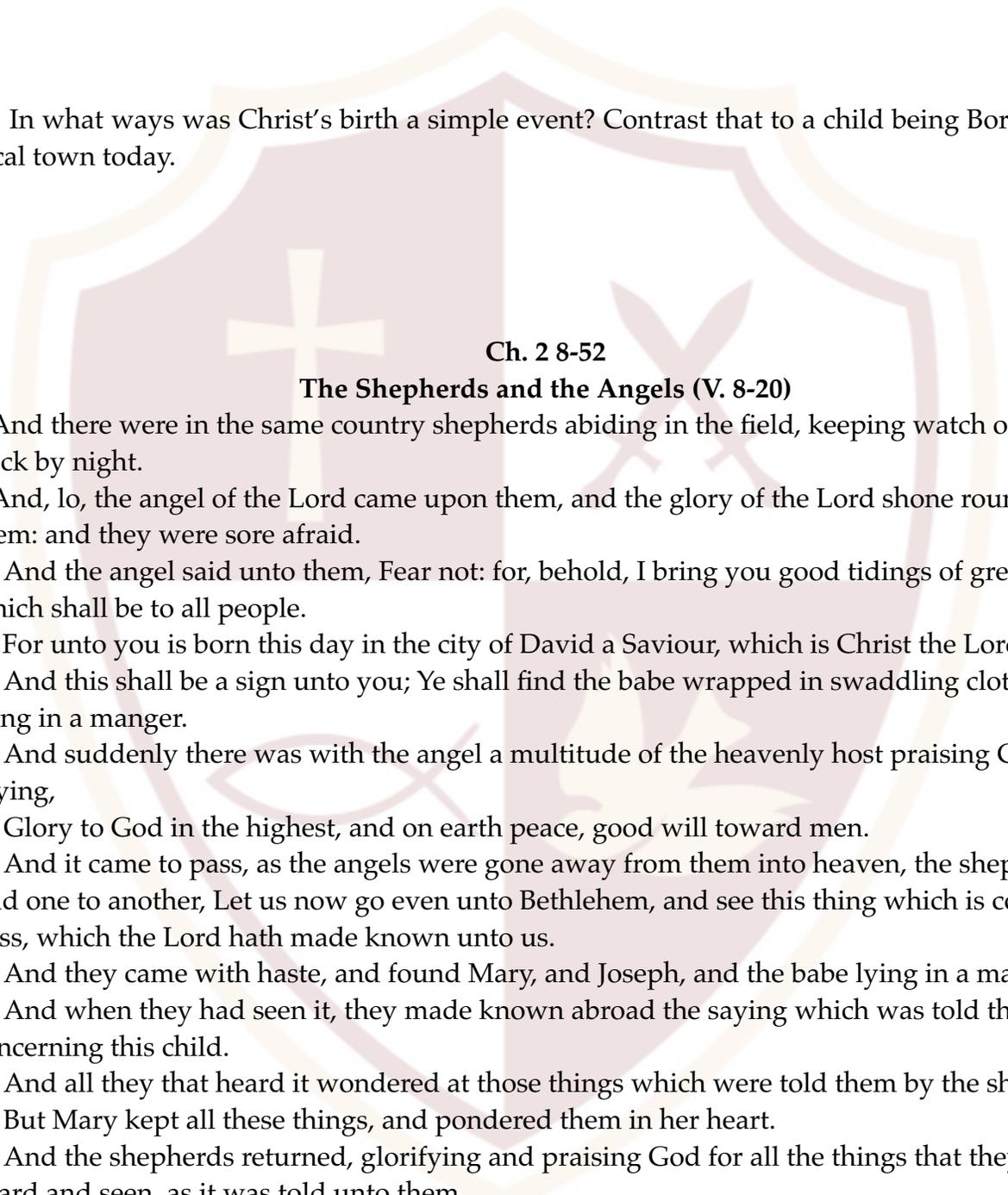
Ch. 2 :1-7

8. What feelings do you get when you have to fill out income tax forms? How would you like to have to pay your income tax in person in Washington? Do you think this was a joyful time in Bethlehem? What were the conditions in the city?

9. What was Joseph and Mary's marital status at the time of Jesus' birth? (2:5)

10. How are people (us) like the city of Bethlehem on the night of Christ's birth?

11. In what ways was Christ's birth a simple event? Contrast that to a child being Born in your local town today.



Ch. 2 8-52

The Shepherds and the Angels (V. 8-20)

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Jesus Presented in the Temple (v. 21-40)

21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called Jesus, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;

23 (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)

24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

33 And Joseph and his mother marveled at those things which were spoken of him.

34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

39 And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

The Boy Jesus at the Temple (V. 41-52)

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Study Questions

Ch. 2:8-52

1. How many angels did the shepherds see at first? How did they react? (2:9)
2. What was the shepherd's reaction after the angels left? (2:15) What should be our reaction when we discover what God wants us to do? What is the responsibility of those who "discover" the good news about Jesus?
3. Why and when did Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem? (2:21-23)
4. Who was Simeon? (2:25) What special significance did Christ's arrival have for him? (2:26-32)
5. What of Simeon's prophecy is still true today?
6. Who was Anna? (2:36-37) What was her response to finding Mary, Joseph, and Christ in the temple? (2:38)
7. In what ways do you see God working behind the scenes in the events of Christ's childhood?
8. In what ways are Simeon and Anna examples to us? What roles can other Christians have in our life of faith? As a Christian, what role can you have in another Christian's life of faith?
9. What kind of model were Mary and Joseph setting for Jesus in their family traditions? (2:41)

10. How is it possible that Jesus got left behind in Bethlehem? (2:43-44) How could it have taken three days before Mary and Joseph found him?

11. How did Jesus respond to his parent's frantic arrival? How did he answer his parent's concern for him? (2:49) How did he then behave?(2:51)

12. How does this story illustrate the tension that Jesus may have felt between obedience to his heavenly father and obedience to his earthly parents?

13. Of the four ways in which Jesus grew (in wisdom, in stature, in favor with God, in favor with man), which one needs the most work in your life? (2:52)

Ch. 3:1-22 (23-38 reference only)
John the Baptist Prepares the Way

1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene,

2 Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

3 And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

4 As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;

6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

7 Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

9 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

10 And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?

11 He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.

12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?

13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you.

14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

15 And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;

16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

17 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

18 And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.

19 But Herod the tetrarch, being reprov'd by him for Herodias his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done,

20 Added yet this above all, that he shut up John in prison.

21 Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened,

22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

(Please read v. 23-38 for your own reference on the genealogy of Jesus for discussion)

Study Questions

Ch. 3: 1-22

(reference genealogy 23-38 for discussion)

1. Under Jewish law, there was only one high priest appointed from Aaron's line. Why does Luke mention two high priests in Verse 3:2?
2. What was the basic message of John the Baptist? (Luke 3:3) Exactly what is repentance? What are its two sides?
3. (Review) Who was the book of Luke written to? Is this echoed by Isaiah? (Isa 40:3-5, Luke 3:6).
4. How sensitive was John to the crowds that came to hear him? (Luke 3:7-8) Why was John harsh with them? How would you feel if your pastor or a teacher called you a vicious snake?
5. What attitude did John warn the people NOT to have? (Luke 3:8-9, James 2:14)

6. John's message in Verses 11-14 had at least three practical examples of how we should conduct our lives. What are they?

7. John probably answered questions from many people, but Luke singled out his replies aimed to rich people (3:11), tax collectors (12-13), and soldiers (14). Why these?

8. Why might some people think that John was the Christ? (3:15) How did John describe Jesus? (3:16-17) Who are the "wheat" and the "chaff" in Verse 3:17?

9. If baptism was a sign of repentance from sin, why did Jesus ask to be baptized? (3:21)

10. This is one of the few places in scripture where all three members of the Trinity are mentioned—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is also just one of two occasions where the Father is heard to say, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." When was the other occasion? (Matt 3:17, Mark 1:11, Luke 3:22, Matt 17:5, 2 Peter 1:17)

Ch. 4:1-30

Satan Tempts Jesus (v. 1-15)

1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,

2 Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

3 And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

7 If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

9 And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence:

10 For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee:

11 And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

12 And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

13 And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.

14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

15 And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

Jesus is Rejected at Nazareth (v. 16-30)

16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

22 And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

23 And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.

24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;

26 But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.

27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

28 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

29 And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.

30 But he passing through the midst of them went his way,

Study Questions

Ch. 4:1-30

1. Have you ever been very hungry or thirsty?

2. Jesus fasted for 40 days. How would you feel after 40 days with no food? How long can you fast (no food) before dying? How long can you go without drinking before you die?

3. What physical or mental needs and desires make us vulnerable to temptation?

4. In what situations are you sometimes tempted to put the Lord to the test?

5. Where did Jesus get the answers he gave the Devil in verses 4, 8, and 12? How did Jesus and the Devil use the Bible differently (verses 9-12)?

6. How did Jesus resist temptation? How can you become skillful in using the Bible as Jesus did? Since the Bible can be misused, how can we learn to use it in the right way?

7. What does the old saying mean, "You can never go home again"? 8. What was Jesus' reputation at this point in his life (verses 14-15)?

8. How did the audience initially respond to Jesus' reading of the scripture (verses 20, 22)?

9. What main points did Jesus make to the people of his hometown (v 24-27)? (1 Kings 17:14-16, 2 Kings 5:1-14)

10. Why were the people angry with what Jesus said? Do you get angry if some- one tells you the truth about yourself? Why do we sometimes avoid facing the truth about ourselves? To what extent will people go to avoid hearing the truth about themselves?

11. What kind of reception from others should you expect when you speak the truth?

12. How did Jesus demonstrate the importance of worship? How about the importance of knowing the scriptures?

Ch. 4:30-44

Jesus Drives Out an Evil Spirit (v. 31-37)

31 And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days.

32 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.

33 And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice,

34 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.

35 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.

36 And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

37 And the fame of him went out into every place of the country round about.

Jesus Heals Many (V. 38-44)

38 And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.

39 And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.

40 Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.

41 And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.

42 And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them.

43 And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.

44 And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee.

Study Questions

Ch. 4:30-44

1. Review from last week: “Everyone praised Jesus” (vs15) and “spoke well of him” (vs 22) but then he said something that made them “furious when they heard this” (vs 28) and attempt to throw him off the cliff (vs 29). What was it that he said to make them so angry?
2. How could Jesus walk through a crowd that wanted to kill him (vs 30)? Do you think Adolf Hitler or Saddam Hussein could simply walk through a crowd of a thousand American soldiers and go on his way?
3. Luke says in verse 32 that the people in Capernaum were amazed (NIV) or astonished (KJV) at his teaching. What does “astonished” mean? What has astonished you?
4. What does it mean for a message to “have authority” (vs 32)?
5. You don’t hear much about people being possessed by demons today. What would be the current day equivalent of first century demons?
6. What does this incident with the demon (verses 33-37) tell us about good and evil? What is your most compelling reason for believing in the existence of evil?
7. Re: verses 38-41. When have you found yourself overwhelmed with the needs of a person or group of people?
8. Why did Jesus heal Simon’s mother-in-law? How did he heal her?
9. Beside exorcising them, how did Jesus treat the demons (vs 41)? Why?

10. How did Jesus balance the constant exposure to the needs of others?

11. What is the benefit of solitude? How important is it to have regular times of solitude? What can you accomplish in solitude that you can't accomplish with other people around? Do you have an adequate amount of solitude? When can you take time for solitude this coming week?

12. How did Jesus present himself as someone worth following?

Ch. 5:1-16

The Calling of the First Disciples (v. 1-11)

1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

The Man With Leprosy (V. 12-16)

12 And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

13 And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him.

14 And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

15 But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities.

16 And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

Study Questions

Ch. 5:1-16

1. Have you ever participated in a project on which everyone worked very hard, only to experience failure? How did you feel? How would you feel if someone completely unconnected with the project and with no expertise in the area came along and told you to start over?
2. How did Simon respond to Jesus' instructions to cast their nets again? (Vs 5) What was the purpose of this? Was Jesus testing Simon's faith?
3. What are the areas in your life where God requires long-term obedience from you in spite of failures?
4. How did Simon react when he realized that Jesus had just done a miracle for them? (Vs 8-9)
5. How did Simon and the others respond to Jesus' invitation to follow him? (Vs 11) In what way is Simon's reaction an example for us to follow? What do you need to leave behind today in order to follow Christ?
6. How did the leprous man present his request to Jesus? Did it show that he believed in Christ? How did his words and actions provide a pattern for us to approach Christ with our needs?
7. After Jesus touched the man and cured him of leprosy, why did he have to show himself to the priest? (Leviticus 13 and 14)
8. What person in your life could most benefit from a caring touch from you in the name of Christ?

9. Re: Verse 16. How important is it for us to imitate the private life of Jesus?

Ch. 5:17-39

Jesus Heals a Paralytic (v. 17-26)

17 And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

18 And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him.

19 And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.

20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?

22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts?

23 Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?

24 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.

25 And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.

The Calling of Levi (v.27-32)

27 And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me.

28 And he left all, rose up, and followed him.

29 And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them.

30 But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?

31 And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick.

32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Jesus Questioned About Fasting (V. 33-39)

33 And they said unto him, Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?

34 And he said unto them, Can ye make the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them?

35 But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.

36 And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old.

37 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish.

38 But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.

39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.

Study Questions

Ch. 5:17-39

- 1. What quality did Jesus see in the paralytic man who was lowered from the roof? What were his first words to him? (Vs 20) Is forgiveness a kind of healing?**
- 2. Why did the Pharisees think that Jesus' words to the paralytic man were blasphemous? (Blasphemy means to speak irreverently about God)**
- 3. What question did Jesus ask the Pharisees? (Vs 21) What is the answer? Why is one easier to say than the other?**
- 4. From whom do we need forgiveness? To whom should we give forgiveness?**
- 5. What kind of jobs do you think present the greatest temptation to do wrong? Why? Was Levi in such a job?**
- 6. What was Levi's first action as a new follower of Jesus? (Vs 29) Who did he invite to his "new career" party? Do you think he was proud to be associated with Jesus?**
- 7. What was the point of the Pharisees' question to Jesus' disciples in Verse 30?**

8. To follow Jesus or to walk more closely with Him, what are (or were) the most difficult things (or ways of life) for you to leave behind?

9. What is the meaning of Jesus' response to the Pharisees in Verses 34-35? 10. What is the point of the parable Jesus told in Verses 36-39?

10. In what ways does following Christ require us to replace old habits with new ones? Why do we resist making these changes?

Ch. 6

Lord of the Sabbath (v. 1-11)

1 And it came to pass on the second sabbath after the first, that he went through the corn fields; and his disciples plucked the ears of corn, and did eat, rubbing them in their hands.

2 And certain of the Pharisees said unto them, Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath days?

3 And Jesus answering them said, Have ye not read so much as this, what David did, when himself was an hungred, and they which were with him;

4 How he went into the house of God, and did take and eat the shewbread, and gave also to them that were with him; which it is not lawful to eat but for the priests alone?

5 And he said unto them, That the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

6 And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that he entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was withered.

7 And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him.

8 But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth.

9 Then said Jesus unto them, I will ask you one thing; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? to save life, or to destroy it?

10 And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

11 And they were filled with madness; and communed one with another what they might do to Jesus.

Study Questions

Ch. 6: 1-11

Note: As background to the studying the Sabbath, read these additional texts: Matthew 12:1-13, Mark 2:23-27, Exodus 20:8-11.

- 1. What was Sunday like in your house when you were growing up? What is your idea of a truly restful day?**

- 2. What does the word "Sabbath" mean to you?**

- 3. What did the Pharisees accuse the disciples of when they picked the grain?**

- 4. How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees accusation?**

- 5. What claim did Jesus make about Himself? What did Jesus' identity as Lord of the Sabbath have to do with the disciples eating grain on the Sabbath? (Mark 2:27- 28)**

- 6. Why were the teachers of the law watching Jesus so closely? What law did they think he would break? (Exodus 20:8-11)**

- 7. How did Jesus heal the man's hand?**

- 8. What did Jesus ask the people? (6:9) Why?**

9. What harmful “religious” tendencies was Jesus resisting by His actions and words during these incidents?

10. In these incidents, whose actions were really Sabbath-keeping? Why?

11. What could you do to make next Sunday a service to God?

Ch. 6:12-26

The Twelve Apostles (v. 12-16)

12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

14 Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew,

15 Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes,

16 And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

Blessings (Beatitudes) and Woes (V. 17-26)

17 And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases;

18 And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed.

19 And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all.

20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.

21 Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now: for ye shall laugh.

22 Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.

23 Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.

24 But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation.

25 Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep.

26 Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Study Questions

Ch. 6:12-26

1. What does Luke tell us about Jesus praying before selecting his apostles? Why do you think he did that?
2. What could spending an extended time in prayer accomplish that could not be accomplished in a shorter time of prayer? Could you pray all night?
3. From what larger group did Jesus choose his apostles? Why do you think he singled out some to be apostles?
4. What significant worship experience have you had in a large group?
5. Who was in the crowd to hear Jesus? (Vs 6:17) Why did they gather? (Vs 6:18- 19) What effect did Jesus have on the people?
6. What four groups did Jesus single out to receive a blessing? How did the promised blessing fit the character or needs of each group? (Vs 6:20-22)
7. What does it mean to be poor (in spirit) and how can we achieve this? (Vs 6:20, James 4:7-10)
8. In verse 6:21, do you think Jesus is referring to a physical hunger or a spiritual hunger (for righteousness)? When will those who hunger be satisfied?

9. In verses 22-23, Jesus says you may be _____, _____, _____, and _____ because of your belief in the Son of Man. But he also says that you will be _____ in heaven. Has your belief in Jesus ever caused you problems?

10. In verses 24-26, Jesus says “woe to those who are rich, well fed, laughing, and have good reputations.” That’s pretty harsh. Does that mean we should turn our backs on this life and move to Zimbabwe, Somalia, or the Guatemala Garbage Dump?

11. If you had been a rich and famous person in Jesus’ day, how would you have reacted to his sermon?

12. In what ways are these words of Jesus comforting? In what ways are they challenging?

Ch. 6:27-42

Love for Enemies (v. 27-36)

27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,

28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

29 And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also.

30 Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.

31 And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

32 For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.

33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.

34 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Judging Others (V.37-42)

37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

39 And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?

40 The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master.

41 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but perceivest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

42 Either how canst thou say to thy brother, Brother, let me pull out the mote that is in thine eye, when thou thyself beholdest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye, and then shalt thou see clearly to pull out the mote that is in thy brother's eye.

Study Questions

Ch. 6:27-42

1. Why do people often call revenge “sweet?”
2. What different kinds of mistreatment did Jesus refer to in his commands? (6:28- 30)
3. Do you think Jesus meant for us to apply Verses 6:29-30 literally in all situations? If not, what is his point? (6:31, 36)
4. What does it mean to “bless those that curse you?” (6:28)
5. About what three positive actions did Jesus ask, “What credit is that to you?” (6:32-34) Did he mean that you shouldn’t do these things?
6. Which of Jesus’ commands do you think goes most against human nature? Do you think it is unrealistic to show the kind of love that Jesus describes?
7. When is forgiveness most difficult to give?
8. How does the expression “What goes around comes around” apply in personal relationships?

9. When Jesus says, “do not judge” in Verse 6:37, does that mean that we should not discern right from wrong? Is he implying that we are not capable of judging?

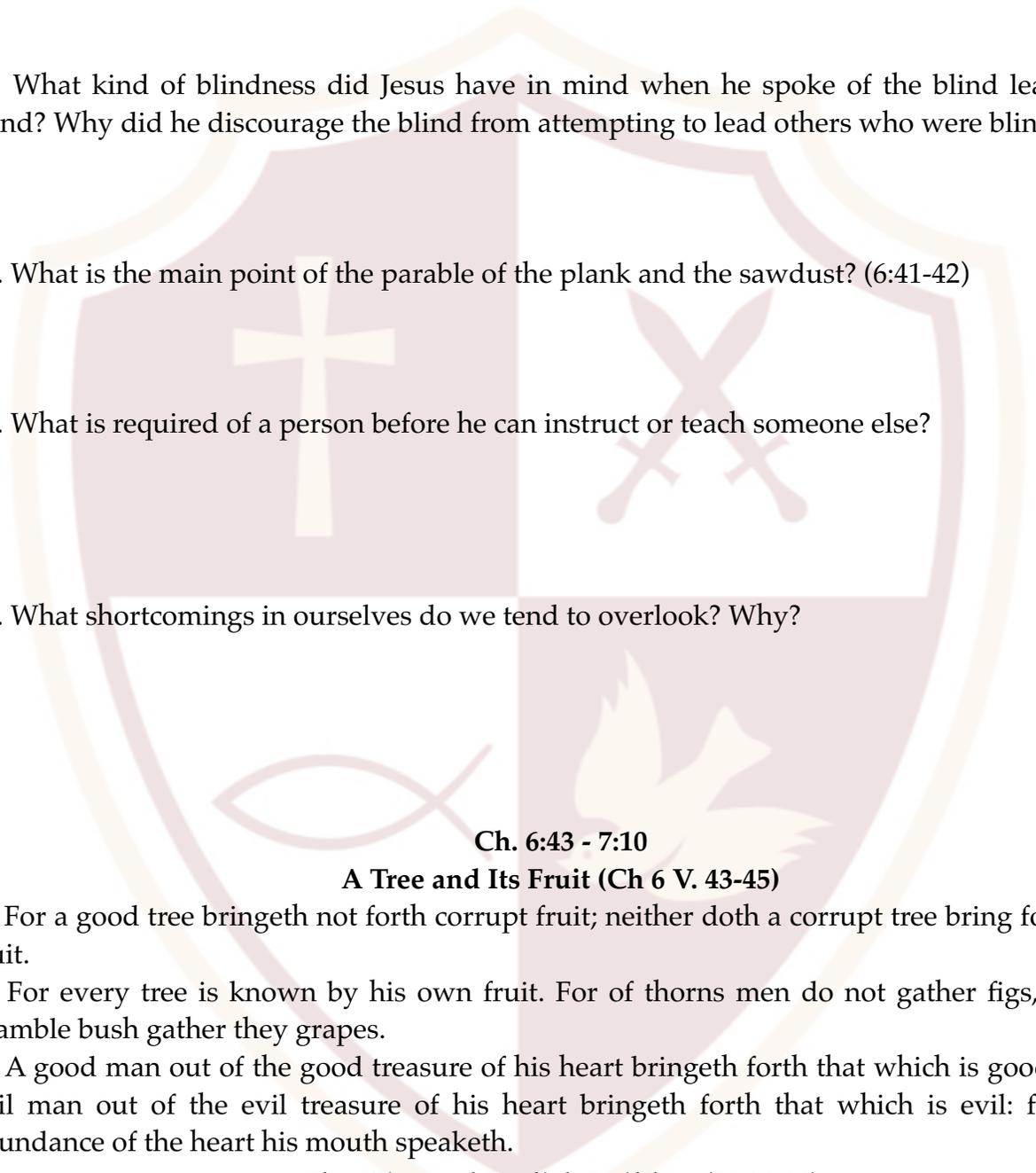
10. To what kind of giving did Jesus refer when he said, “Give and it will be given to you?” What does God give to those who give? (6:38)

11. What kind of blindness did Jesus have in mind when he spoke of the blind leading the blind? Why did he discourage the blind from attempting to lead others who were blind? (6:39)

12. What is the main point of the parable of the plank and the sawdust? (6:41-42)

13. What is required of a person before he can instruct or teach someone else?

14. What shortcomings in ourselves do we tend to overlook? Why?



Ch. 6:43 - 7:10

A Tree and Its Fruit (Ch 6 V. 43-45)

43 For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

44 For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

The Wise and Foolish Builders (V. 46-49)

46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:

48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

The Faith of the Centurion (Ch. 7 v. 1-10)

1 Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum.

2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

3 And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.

4 And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this:

5 For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.

6 Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:

7 Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.

8 For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

9 When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

10 And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.

Study Questions

Ch. 6 v. 1-49 & Ch.7 v. 1-10

1. The story Jesus tells in Luke 6:43-45 is also in Matthew (Matt 7:15-20). Does the additional lead-in sentence in Matthew help you understand these verses better?
2. What did Jesus say is the source of good and evil things? (6:45)
3. What is it about you that must change in order for good behavior to be produced?
4. How do other people know about the state of your heart and your faith?

5. Why might people build a house without a good foundation? What can happen to these people?

6. Do you know the foundational beliefs of the church which you attend?

7. During the last “storm” to hit your life, what did you learn about your life’s “foundation?” What “building blocks” do you need to add to your foundation? (Love, forgiveness, faith, wisdom, control of anger, perseverance, generosity...)

8. What can you do to get ready for the next storm in your life? Do you need help from a mentor, friend, accountability partner, pastor, or prayer group? What are you doing about getting the help you need?

9. On what basis do the Jewish elders request Jesus’ help for the centurion’s servant? (7:4,5) How does their approach differ from the centurion’s? (7:6-8) How does this relate to Jesus’ response in verse 9?

10. What different character qualities were demonstrated by the centurion in this story? What qualities would be useful to remember when we ask God for help?

11. The centurion presented his request to Jesus through friends; is this similar to asking friends to pray for your needs?

12. Why is it difficult for us to be as dependent on God as the centurion was?

(The story of the centurion is also in Matthew 8:5-13. Matthews tells it differently to emphasize the aspect of faith in God to his largely Jewish audience. On the other hand, for his mostly gentile audience, Luke points out the good relations between (some) Jews and gentiles in 7:3-5 emphasizing that God’s salvation is for both Jews and gentiles.)