

Luke 10:1-24
Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-two*

- 1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.
- 2 He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."
- 3 Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.
- 4 Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.
- 5 "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.'
- 6 If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you.
- 7 Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house."
- 8 "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is set before you.
- 9 Heal the sick who are there until they say, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'
- 10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say,
11 'Even the dust of your town that sticks to our feet we wipe off against you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God is near.'
- 12 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.
- 13 "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.
- 14 But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you.
- 15 And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths.
- 16 He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me."
- 17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."
- 18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.
- 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.
- 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."
- 21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.
- 22 "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."
- 23 Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.
- 24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

Study Questions

Ch. 10:1-24

1. Have you worked on a difficult project lately? How did you feel when you completed it?
2. What kind of qualifications do you think the people Jesus sent out had? College degree? Preaching, teaching or missionary experience? Business management? What does this suggest about the kinds of people Jesus wants to work for him?
3. In verse 10:2, what did Jesus instruct the 72 disciples to do? Is this something that you could or should do today?
4. Why did Jesus not want his disciples to greet people along the road? (10:4) Why did Jesus not want his disciples to move from one house to another? (10:7) There are two messages for us here: one as a worker and one as a host; what are they?
5. In 10:11, Jesus refers to Sodom. What happened there? Why did Jesus say that a town that rejected his disciples serve suffer even more than Sodom? (Genesis 19) And why would it be worse for Korazon and Bethsaida than Tyree and Sidon?
6. The town of Capernaum was Jesus' base for his Galilean ministry. It was an important crossroad for traders and the Roman army so it happened there and was said there would spread far. Why did Jesus say that it would "go down to the depths?" (10:15)

7. In 10:20, why did Jesus tell his disciples “do not rejoice that spirits submit to you?” Hint: there are **two** major reasons. (Proverbs 8:13, 16:18, 29:23, Exodus 32:32, Ezekiel 13:9, Daniel 12:1, Philippians 4:3, Revelation 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:12, 20:15, 21:27).

8. What in the disciples report gave Jesus reason for joy? (10:21)

9. In 10:21, Jesus seems to be opposed to wisdom and learning. Why? What is he saying in this verse?

10. What does Jesus mean by his blessing in 10:23? Do you feel blessed because you know Jesus? Do you feel you are in a privileged position today? What comes along with the privilege of knowing Christ?

Ch. 10:27-42

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

25 On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

26 What is written in the Law? he replied. “How do you read it?”

27 He answered: “ ‘Love The Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

28 “You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”

29 But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

30 In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.

31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side.

32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.

33 Where is Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.

34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him.

35 The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

37 The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Study Questions

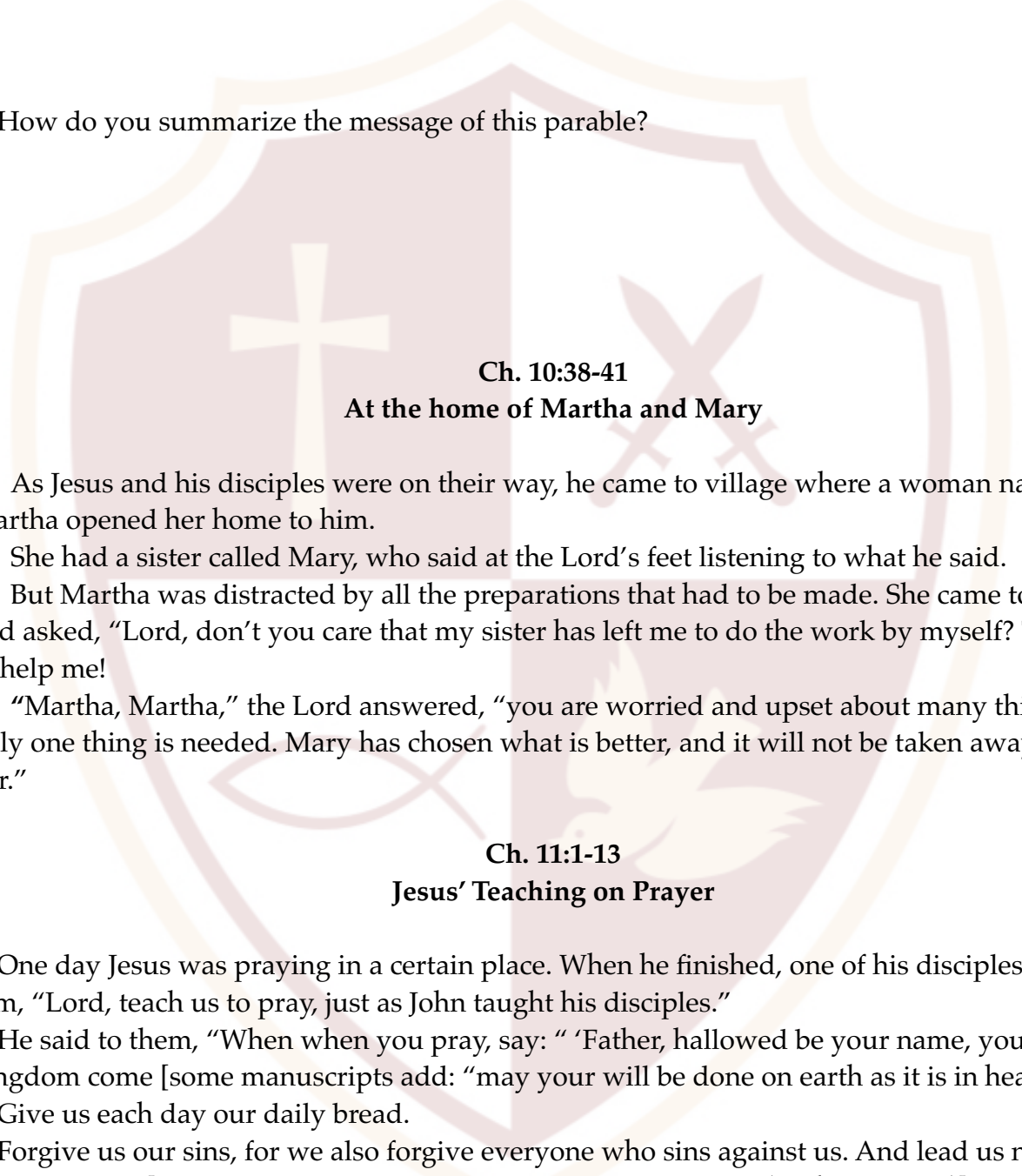
Ch. 10:27-42

1. What are the greatest inconveniences in your life? (Ones involving expenditures of your time? Of money? Emotional issues? Travel plans? Working with others?)
2. Did the expert in the law who questioned and then answered Jesus understand what was necessary to inherit eternal life? Did he summarize the law correctly? (Deut. 6:5, Leviticus 19:18)
3. After Jesus affirmed his correct reply, what did the legal expert didn't want to do? (10:29)
4. Jesus replied to the legal expert's question, "who is my neighbor?" with perhaps the best-known parable in the Bible. Let's consider this parable from the point of view of the priest and the Levite. Could they have had good reasons for behaving the way that they did?
5. What natural inclinations make it easier for you to act like the priest and the Levite rather than the Samaritan?
6. What was the Samaritan's response to the situation? Why did he help the beaten man? (10:33) How practical was his approach?

7. How does it feel when someone has mercy on you? How do you feel when you get in trouble because of your own stupid actions? How does mercy feel then?

8. In what ways can you personally or can we as Christians be more like the Samaritan? Is this something to aspire to? Is this something God expects of you?

9. How do you summarize the message of this parable?



Ch. 10:38-41

At the home of Martha and Mary

38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him.

39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Ch. 11:1-13

Jesus' Teaching on Prayer

1 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

2 He said to them, "When you pray, say: " 'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come [some manuscripts add: "may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"]

3 Give us each day our daily bread.

4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.' " [some manuscripts add: "and deliver us from evil (or the evil one)]

5 Then he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,

- 6 because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.’
- 7 “Then the one inside answers, “Don’t don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’
- 8 I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man’s boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.
- 9 So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.
- 10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.
- 11 “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will you give him a snake instead?
- 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will you give him a scorpion?
- 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”



Study Questions
Ch. 10:38-42; 11:1-13

1. What is your home like shortly before guests arrive?
2. What did Mary do while Martha attended to household preparations? (10:39)
3. What did Martha accuse her sister? Of what did she accuse Jesus? (10:40) If you had been Martha in this situation, how would you have responded to your sister’s actions?
4. Why did Jesus favor Mary’s choice? Was Jesus dissing Martha? What’s the lesson in this story for us today?
5. Verses 11:1-13 Focus on three aspects of prayer. What are they?
Verse 11:2-4

Verse 11:5-10

6. What four elements should be in our prayers? (Remember ACTS)

7. In Jesus' model prayer, what two concerns related to God come first? Why? What personal concerns then follow?

8. How do prayer and forgiveness relate?

9. Have you ever turn down a request from a friend to do something and then changed your mind because he kept asking? What is the point of the parable in Verses 11:7-8?

10. What occupies most of your time in prayer: praise, confession, thanksgiving, or petition (requests)? Why? In what area do you want to grow?

11. When have you felt like God was not listening to your prayers? What did or do you do then?

12. What kind of things do we – individually and collectively – usually ask for in prayer? What is the most important gift the father could ever give us? (Vs 11:3)

Ch. 11:14-36
Jesus and Beelzebub

- 14 Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon left, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowd was amazed.
- 15 But some of them said, "By Beelzebub, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons."
- 16 Others tested him by asking for a sign from heaven.
- 17 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall.
- 18 If Satan is divided against himself, how can his kingdom stand? I say this because you claim that I drive out demons by Beelzebub.
- 19 Now if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your followers drive them out? So then, they will be your judges.
- 20 But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.
- 21 "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe.
- 22 But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.
- 23 "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters.
- 24 "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.'
- 25 When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order.
- 26 Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first."
- 27 As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you."
- 28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

The Sign of Jonah

- 29 As the crowds increased, Jesus said, "This is a wicked generation. It asks for a miraculous sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.
- 30 For as Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites, so also will the Son of Man be to this generation.
- 31 The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here.
- 32 The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here."

The Lamp of the Body

- 33 "No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead he puts it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light.
- 34 Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness.
- 35 See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness.

36 Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it dark, it will be completely lighted, as when the light of a lamp shines on you.”

Study Questions
Luke 11:14-36

1. Jesus performed a miracle (casting out a demon) and there were four reactions to it. What were they? Hint: Jesus responds to each reaction in verses 17-23, 24- 26, 27-28, 29-32.

2. The first reaction: By whose power did some think that Jesus could drive out demons? (2 Kings 1:16-17) What did the name Beelzebub come to represent?

3. Jesus refutes the idea that he was driving out demons by Beelzebub in two ways. Summarize the first part of Jesus’ first argument in Verses 17-18. (Matthew 7:22, Luke 9:49-50, and Acts 19:13-16)

4. Jesus makes his point another way in Verses 19-20. Explain.

5. In Verses 21-22, how does Jesus makes his second argument that he was not acting on behalf of Beelzebub? (Isaiah 49:24-26)

6. The second reaction: Verse 23 says that those who are negative to Jesus are his enemies. What about those who are neutral?

7. What happens to people who are neutral? Can you resist Satan on your own? (Vs 24-26)

8. The third reaction: How did Jesus respond to the woman who called out a blessing to his mother? Was the focus of the woman right or wrong? Why? What can we learn from her?

9. The fourth reaction: After a very dramatic miracle, why did some people still want a sign from heaven?

10. What was Jesus' response to those who wanted a sign? (Vs 29-32) What does that mean to you today? Would Jesus consider this generation a wicked one?

11. The belief which God commended was based upon inspired words, more than upon works.

12. Summarizing verses 14-32: The belief which God commended was based upon _____, more than upon _____.

13. Jesus came to convert men and gave plenty of clear evidence, but people came to the wrong verdict. Why? (Vs 11:34)

14. What can you do to make yourself a lamp to yourself and others?



Six Woes
Luke 11:37-54

37 When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table.

38 But the Pharisee, noticing that Jesus did not first wash before the meal, was surprised.

39 Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.

40 You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also?

41 But give what is inside the dish to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.

42 “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

43 “Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces.

44 “Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which men walk over without knowing it.”

45 One of the experts in the law answered him, “Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us also.”

46 Jesus replied, “And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.

47 “Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your forefathers who killed them.

48 So you testify that you approve of what your forefathers did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs.

49 Because of this, God in his wisdom said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.’

50 Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world,

51 from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.

52 “Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.”

53 When Jesus left there, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions,

54 waiting to catch him in something he might say.

Study Questions
Luke 11:37-54

1. How important are appearances in our world today? Do some people care more about how they look than what they are really like inside?
2. Would Dale Carnegie approve of Jesus remarks as a dinner guest?

3. According to Jesus, what did the Pharisees emphasize? And what did they overlook? (11:39-40)

4. It is easy to rationalize not helping others because we have already given to the church. How did Jesus feel about this? (11:42)

5. Why did Jesus say “woe” six times? (11:42-52) What were the six specific reasons that the Pharisees would experience woe?

6. In Verse 11:47, did Jesus say woe to the Pharisees because their forefathers killed the prophets? Or for some other reason? Does God hold us accountable and punish us for the sins of our fathers? (Exodus 20:5, 34:7, Numbers 14:18, Ezekiel 18:30, Acts 5:31, 10:43)

7. Why did Jesus say his listeners would be held responsible for the fates of the prophets? (11:48-51)

8. Which of these “woes” might Jesus warn us about today? Can you think of other woes about which Jesus might warn us?

9. In what ways do we hinder others from coming to God? (11:52)

10. In a Bible study group, do you ask questions and participate in the discussion 1) to gain knowledge about the scriptures, 2) to subtly show off what you know, 3) to catch someone else in his or her words, 4) to gain points with the leader, 5) because the leader calls on you, 6) some other reason?

11. This week, ask someone you trust to help you weed out the hypocrisy from your life.

12. This week, who can you lovingly encourage to learn from God's word? How?

Warnings and Encouragements Luke 12:1-21

1 Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples, saying: "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

2 There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known.

3 What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.

4 "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more.

5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.

6 Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.

7 Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

8 "I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God.

9 But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God.

10 And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

11 "When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say,

12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."

The Parable of the Rich Fool

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

14 Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?"

15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop.

17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

18 "Then he said, "This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." "

20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

21 "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

Study Questions

Luke 12:1-21

1. What individuals or groups are most feared in our society? Do these people ever act in a hypocritical way? (What's the meaning of hypocrisy?)
2. What is the yeast of the Pharisees? Why use the illustration of yeast? What eventually happens to bread made with yeast? (Hebrews 4:13)
3. What did Jesus say his disciples should and should not fear? (12:4-5) How does this tie in to the imagery about the sparrows and hairs on your head? (12:6-7)
4. How was the disciples' loyalty to Jesus linked to Jesus' loyalty to them? (12:8- 9) What situations tempt people to not acknowledge Jesus before others?
5. What's the meaning of Verse 12:10? If you speak against Jesus, you can be forgiven, but if you speak against the Holy Spirit, you cannot be forgiven? Huh?
6. If you think you might find yourself in a position where you have to defend your views or your faith, is it better to rehearse and be knowledgeable about what to say or just let the Holy Spirit put the right words in your mouth? (12:11-12)

7. How did your family regard possessions when you were growing up?

8. Is “eat, drink, and be merry” a non-Biblical idea? (12:19, Ecclesiastes 2:24, 3:13, 5:18, 8:15, 9:7)

9. Against what did Jesus warn the crowd? (12:15) Why?

10. What signs of greed can show up in a person’s life?

11. With what parts of the parable can you identify? What parts of the parable make you uncomfortable? (12:16-20)

12. Does this parable say you should not plan for retirement or that you should not save money or valuables?

13. Why is it difficult for us to accept the fact that our life and things are temporary? What step can you take this week to become less dependent upon your possessions?

Do Not Worry
Luke 12:22-48

22 Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear.

23 Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.

24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds!

25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

- 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?
- 27 “Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.
- 28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!
- 29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it.
- 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them.
- 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.
- 32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.
- 33 Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.
- 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Watchfulness

- 35 “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning,
- 36 like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him.
- 37 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.
- 38 It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night.
- 39 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.
- 40 You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”
- 41 Peter asked, “Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?”
- 42 The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time?
- 43 It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns.
- 44 I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions.
- 45 But suppose the servant says to himself, ‘My master is taking a long time in coming,’ and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk.
- 46 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.
- 47 “That servant who knows his master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows.
- 48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Study Questions

Luke 12:22-48

1. What do you worry about most? What do people you know worry about?
2. What situations bring about the worrier in you?
3. What did Jesus say we should not worry about? (12:22)
4. What does worrying accomplish? (12:25-26) What has worrying done for you?
5. Why are we not to worry? (12:30) When have you seen the truth that God knows your needs and meets them?
6. How can a person seek God's kingdom? (12:31) Is seeking the kingdom of God just one of your many concerns or is it central in all that you do? Are you holding back any areas of your life from God's control?
7. How can we store up treasure in heaven? (12:33) How big is your treasure in heaven?
8. What is it like to wait for someone without knowing when he or she is coming? (Think hours, days, weeks, months.)

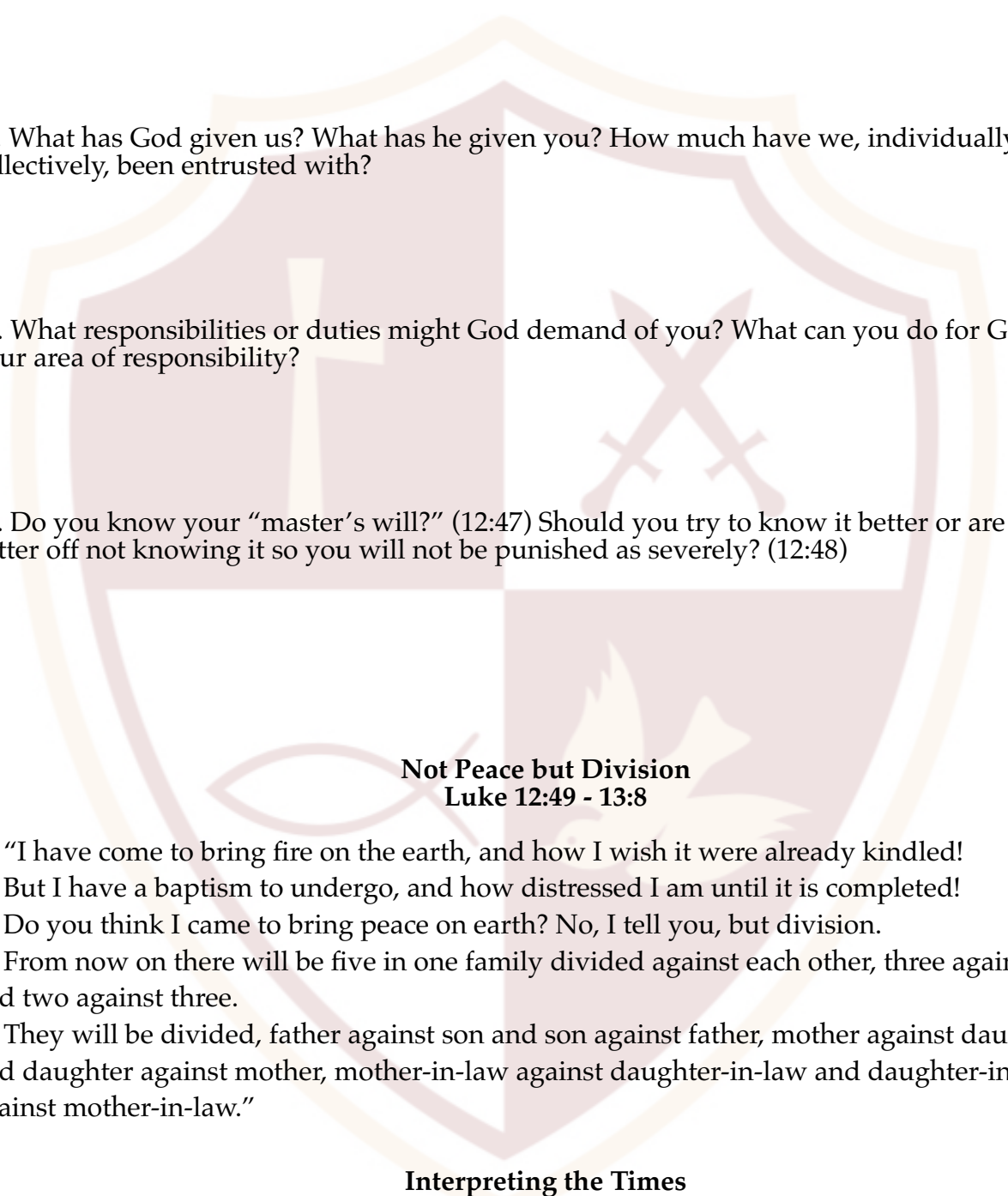
9. How long did Jesus say the servants should be willing to wait for their master? (12:38) How does this translate to you today?

10. For what are we to be watchful? What does watchfulness involve? Why is watchfulness not a passive activity?

11. What has God given us? What has he given you? How much have we, individually and collectively, been entrusted with?

12. What responsibilities or duties might God demand of you? What can you do for God in your area of responsibility?

13. Do you know your "master's will?" (12:47) Should you try to know it better or are you better off not knowing it so you will not be punished as severely? (12:48)



Not Peace but Division
Luke 12:49 - 13:8

49 "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!

50 But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed!

51 Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.

52 From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three.

53 They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

Interpreting the Times

54 He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does.

55 And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is.

56 Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time?

57 "Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right?"

58 As you are going with your adversary to the magistrate, try hard to be reconciled to him on the way, or he may drag you off to the judge, and the judge turn you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison.

59 I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny."

Repent or Perish Luke 13

1 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.

2 Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way?"

3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem?"

5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

6 Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree, planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any.

7 So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?'

8 " 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it.

9 If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' "

Study Questions

Luke 12:49 - 13:8

1. What causes family members to turn against each other? What do families typically fight or disagree about?
2. What did Jesus come to bring? Why did he wish that the fire were already kindled? (12:49)
3. What did most people think Jesus was bringing? In what way did Jesus bring division? (12:51) Where would this be most clearly noticed? (12:52-53)

4. Over what issues should we be willing to be divided with our friends or members of our family?

5. In verses 12:54-56, what didn't the crowd know how to interpret? Why did Jesus call them hypocrites for not knowing how to interpret "this present time?"

6. What did Jesus want his audience to do? (12:57) Why is this difficult? Has God ever given you a sign or strong feeling that you should do something? Did you do it?

7. How is an "out of court" settlement better than a judge's decision? Why did Jesus cite that example?

8. What connection do many people make between how bad they are and how much they suffer? What's wrong with saying that people suffer because of how sinful they are?

9. What can we do to keep from judging people by their circumstances?

10. What does Jesus mean by his warning in Verse 13:5?

11. There are three "characters" in the parable of the fig tree, the owner, the farmer, and the fig tree itself. What do each of them represent? What is the meaning of the parable? (13:6-8)

A Crippled Woman Healed on the Sabbath **Luke 13:10-30**

- 10** On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues,
11 and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all.
12 When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity."
13 Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.
14 Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath."
15 The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water?
16 Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?"
17 When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

- 18** Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to?
19 It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches."
20 Again he asked, "What shall I compare the kingdom of God to?
21 It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

The Narrow Door

- 22** Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem.
23 Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them,
24 "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.
25 Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' "But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'
26 "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'
27 "But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'
28 "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.
29 People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.
30 Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last."

Study Questions

Luke 13:10-30

1. Have you ever heard of (or had) special rules for Sunday?
2. What did Jesus do when he saw the crippled woman? What led to her healing? (13:12-13). How was her healing similar to healing the widow's son (7:12-15) but different from healing the bleeding woman (8:43-48)? What can we learn from the healings of Jesus?
3. Why was the synagogue ruler indignant? How did he view the Sabbath? What rule did he announce to the crowd?
4. What kind of restrictions do we foolishly put on God's work? Do we ever restrict good deeds because of man's (or self-imposed) rules or traditions?
5. Why did Jesus use a mustard seed as an illustration instead of a watermelon seed or soybean seed or acorn?
6. What makes yeast a good example of God's kingdom? What do these two parables (mustard seed and yeast) tell us about God's kingdom?
7. In what areas of life do you tend to procrastinate? How does it feel to miss a good opportunity?

8. According to Jesus, what is it worth every effort to accomplish? (13:24)

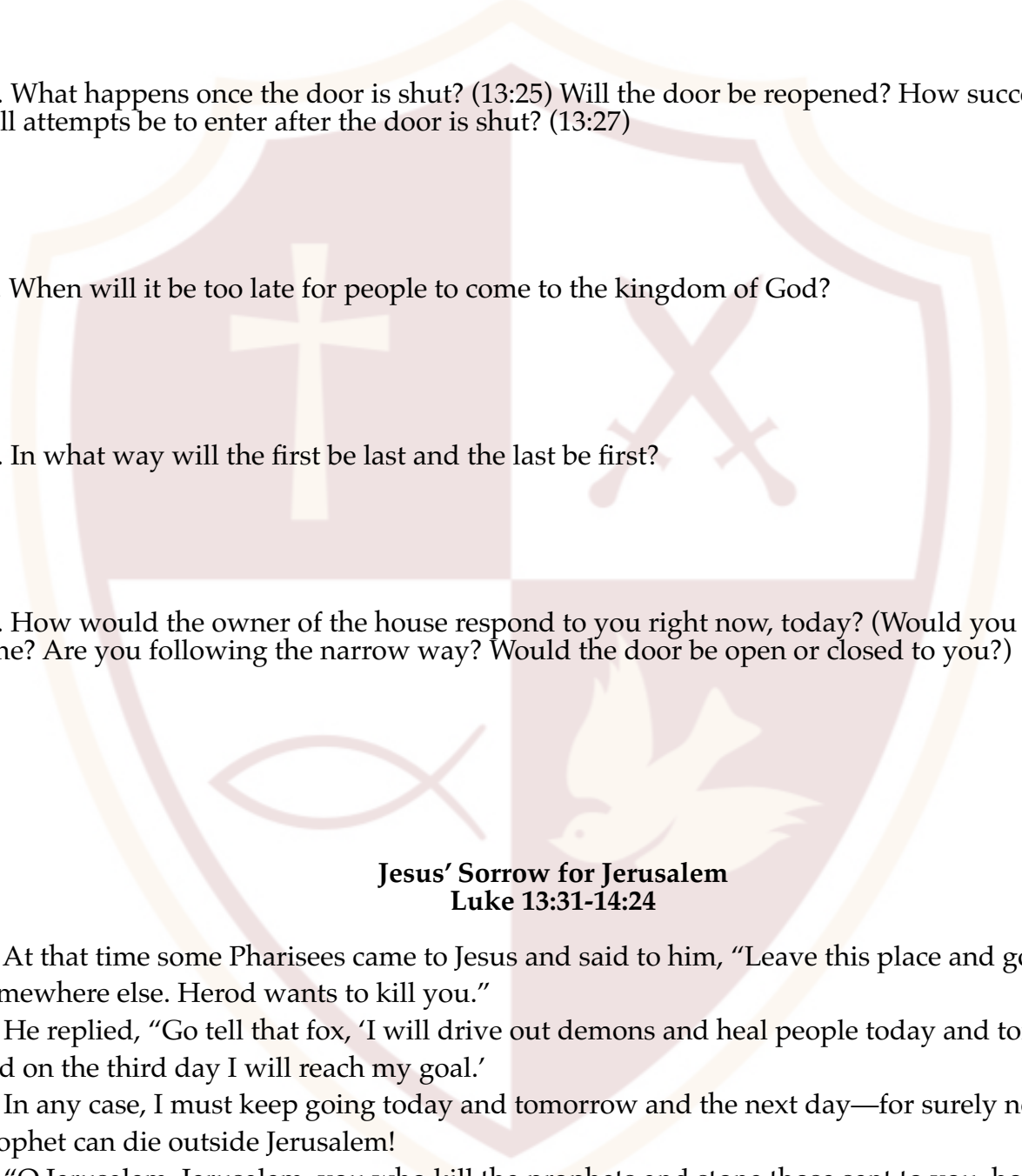
9. What does the narrow door represent? In what sense is the way to the kingdom of God narrow?

10. What happens once the door is shut? (13:25) Will the door be reopened? How successful will attempts be to enter after the door is shut? (13:27)

11. When will it be too late for people to come to the kingdom of God?

12. In what way will the first be last and the last be first?

13. How would the owner of the house respond to you right now, today? (Would you be on time? Are you following the narrow way? Would the door be open or closed to you?)



Jesus' Sorrow for Jerusalem
Luke 13:31-14:24

31 At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you."

32 He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.'"

33 In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"

35 Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Jesus at a Pharisee's House Luke 14

- 1 One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.
- 2 There in front of him was a man suffering from dropsy.
- 3 Jesus asked the Pharisees and experts in the law, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath or not?"
- 4 But they remained silent. So taking hold of the man, he healed him and sent him away.
- 5 Then he asked them, "If one of you has a son or an ox that falls into a well on the Sabbath day, will you not immediately pull him out?"
- 6 And they had nothing to say.
- 7 When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable:
 - 8 "When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited.
 - 9 If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this man your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place.
 - 10 But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests.
 - 11 For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."
 - 12 Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid.
 - 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,
 - 14 and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The Parable of the Great Banquet

- 15 When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."
- 16 Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests.
- 17 At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'
- 18 "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'
- 19 "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'
- 20 "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'
- 21 "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

22 “ ‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’

23 “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.

24 I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’ ”

Study Questions

Luke 13:31 - 14:24

1. What prompted the Pharisees to warn Jesus of Herod’s intentions?

2. Jesus’ life, work, and death were not determined by Herod or the Pharisees. What or who planned and directed his life and mission?

3. Why was Jesus focusing on Jerusalem? Why did Jesus say with respect to gathering its people together, Jerusalem was “not willing” or would not let him? (13:34, 1 Kings 19:10, 2 Chronicles 24:19)

4. How was the meal at the Pharisee’s house set up to trap Jesus? (14:1-2) Did it?

5. What does the parable in Verses 7-11 mean today? Are you eager to raise your social status? To be with the “right” people? To drive a cool car? Who do you try to impress?

6. How can we humble ourselves? (14:11) Does humility mean putting yourself down? Is humility the same as self-degradation? What is real humility?

7. In Verses 12-14, Jesus advises his host to invite people who cannot repay him back. What do you think of this advice? Does this include people who are poor because they are lazy or poor by choice?

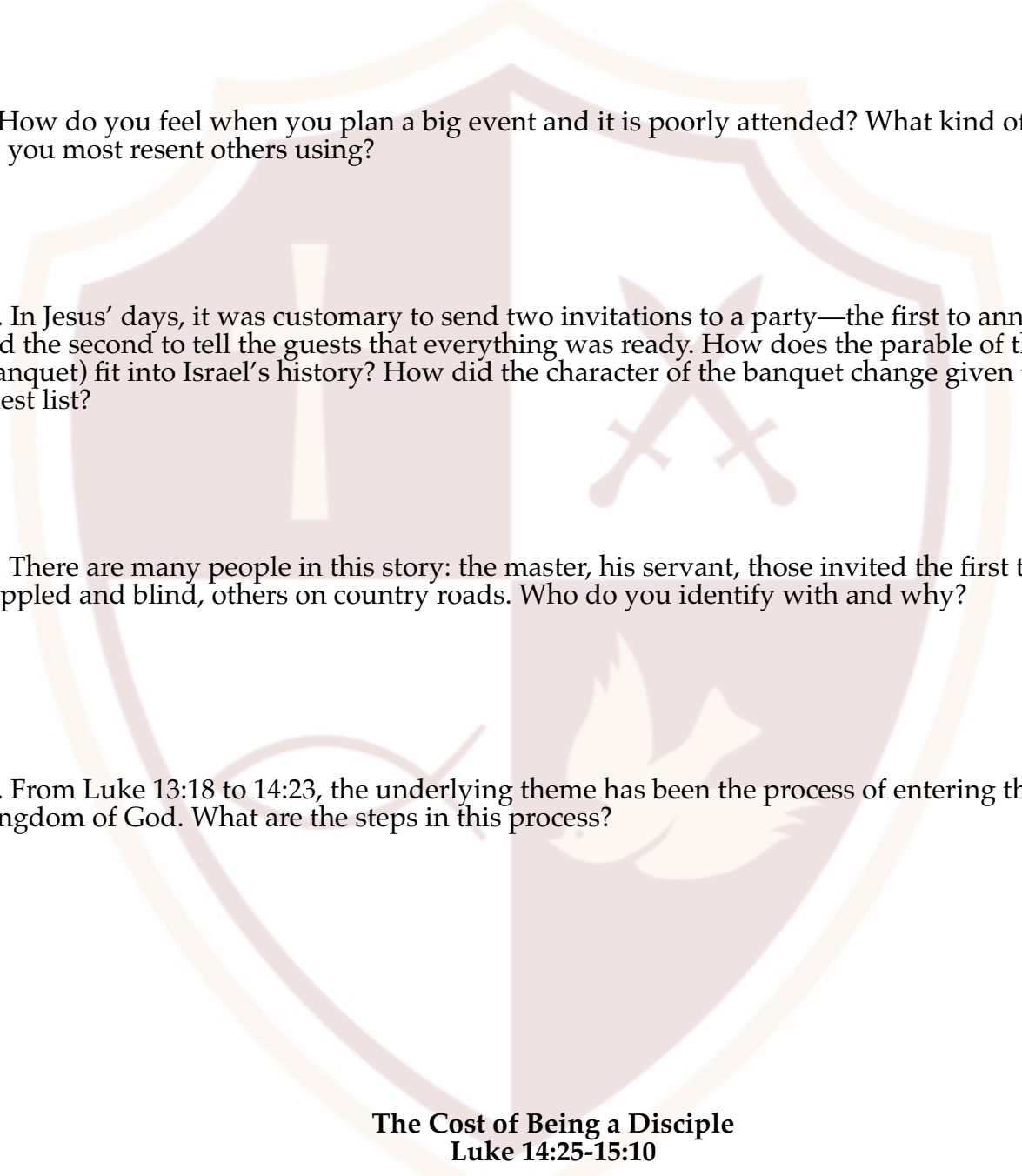
8. There are two points in the who-to-invite story (vs 12-14). They are?

9. How do you feel when you plan a big event and it is poorly attended? What kind of excuses do you most resent others using?

10. In Jesus' days, it was customary to send two invitations to a party—the first to announce it and the second to tell the guests that everything was ready. How does the parable of this party (banquet) fit into Israel's history? How did the character of the banquet change given the new guest list?

11. There are many people in this story: the master, his servant, those invited the first time, the crippled and blind, others on country roads. Who do you identify with and why?

12. From Luke 13:18 to 14:23, the underlying theme has been the process of entering the Kingdom of God. What are the steps in this process?



The Cost of Being a Disciple
Luke 14:25-15:10

25 Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said:

26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.

27 And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

28 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it?

29 For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him,

30 saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'

31 "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?

32 If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

33 In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

34 "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?

35 It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

The Parable of the Lost Sheep Luke 15

1 Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him.

2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 Then Jesus told them this parable:

4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders

6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'

7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

8 "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?

9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.'

10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Study Questions

Luke 14:25-15:10

1. Think about planning a major project such as renovating a basement or redoing a kitchen. How can you be sure to take into account all of the costs? What happens if you overlook something? What if the project is not completed? What will you wife, family, and friends say?

2. What does it mean to “hate” your parents, wife, children, siblings, and even your own life? (14:26 and Matthew 10:37)

3. Who was traveling with Jesus? How might they have reacted to his terms of discipleship? How do these conditions seem to you today?

4. What consequences result from not counting the costs before building? (14:28- 29).

5. If a king didn't have sufficient manpower to go to war, what was his best course of action? (14:31-32)

6. What costs do we need to count in responding to Jesus? What costs of following Jesus seem especially high to you?

7. What does Jesus short illustration about salt mean? (14:34-35)

8. The Pharisees were muttering about Jesus eating with “sinners.” Why was Jesus’ parable a good response to these Pharisees?

9. How are we like sheep? In what ways do we go astray? What do we need to do when we go astray? (15:7)

10. How does the picture of “rejoicing in heaven” over repentance make you feel?

11. What value did the woman place on each coin? Why did she look so hard for it?

12. How is a repentant sinner like a found coin? Why does God care so much about repentant sinners?

13. What do these verses in Luke mean to you (the cost of being a disciple, saltiness, and the parables of the lost sheep and lost coin)?

Luke 15: 11 – 32 The Prodigal Son

11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons.

12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.

16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!

18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men [skilled craftsmen].'

20 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.

24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.

26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.

27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.

29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.

30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

31 " 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "

Study Questions

The Prodigal Son Luke 15: 11

1. How do you feel when others get rewards greater than they deserve?

2. Who do the three major people in the parable represent (father, older son, younger son).

3. What share of the estate would the younger son be entitled to? (Deut 21:17) When would he receive this? By asking for his share early, what did the younger son show?

4. What are the differences and similarities between this parable and the two preceding ones? (All three were told at the same time to the same audience)

5. What causes us to show resentment when mercy is shown to someone else?

6. Who is the vilest person you know or know about? What would you do if that person said he (or she) wants to be forgiven?

7. How can you guard yourself from feeling resentful when God shows mercy to people you think don't deserve it?

8. Is there a totally undeserving person to whom you can extend God's love and forgiveness this week? How?

9. What do the three parables in Luke 15 reveal about God's love?

The Parable of the Shrewd Manager **Luke 16:1-18**

- 1 Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions.
- 2 So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’
- 3 “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg—
- 4 I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’
- 5 “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’
- 6 “ ‘Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied. “The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.’
- 7 “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ “ ‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied. “He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’
- 8 “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light.
- 9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

More About Money and Wealth

- 10 “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.
- 11 So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?
- 12 And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?
- 13 “No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”
- 14 The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus.
- 15 He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God’s sight.

Additional Teachings

- 16 “The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John [the Baptist]. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.
- 17 It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than for the least stroke of a pen to drop out of the Law.

18 “Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Study Questions
Luke 16:1-18

1. Who did the Rich Man’s creditors think was being generous to them? Why would the shrewd manager gain from lowering the bills of his master’s creditors?

2. After the manager lowered the bills, what choices did the master have?

3. What does “shrewd” mean? Is it bad to be shrewd?

4. What are some possible interpretations of this parable, especially Verses 8-9? (Hint: there are at least 6 interpretations, perhaps more.)

5. Is Jesus commending dishonesty? (16:8)

6. What is Jesus saying about (or to) “the children of the light?” (16:8, Matt 10:16)

7. What’s the bottom line meaning of Verse 16:9?

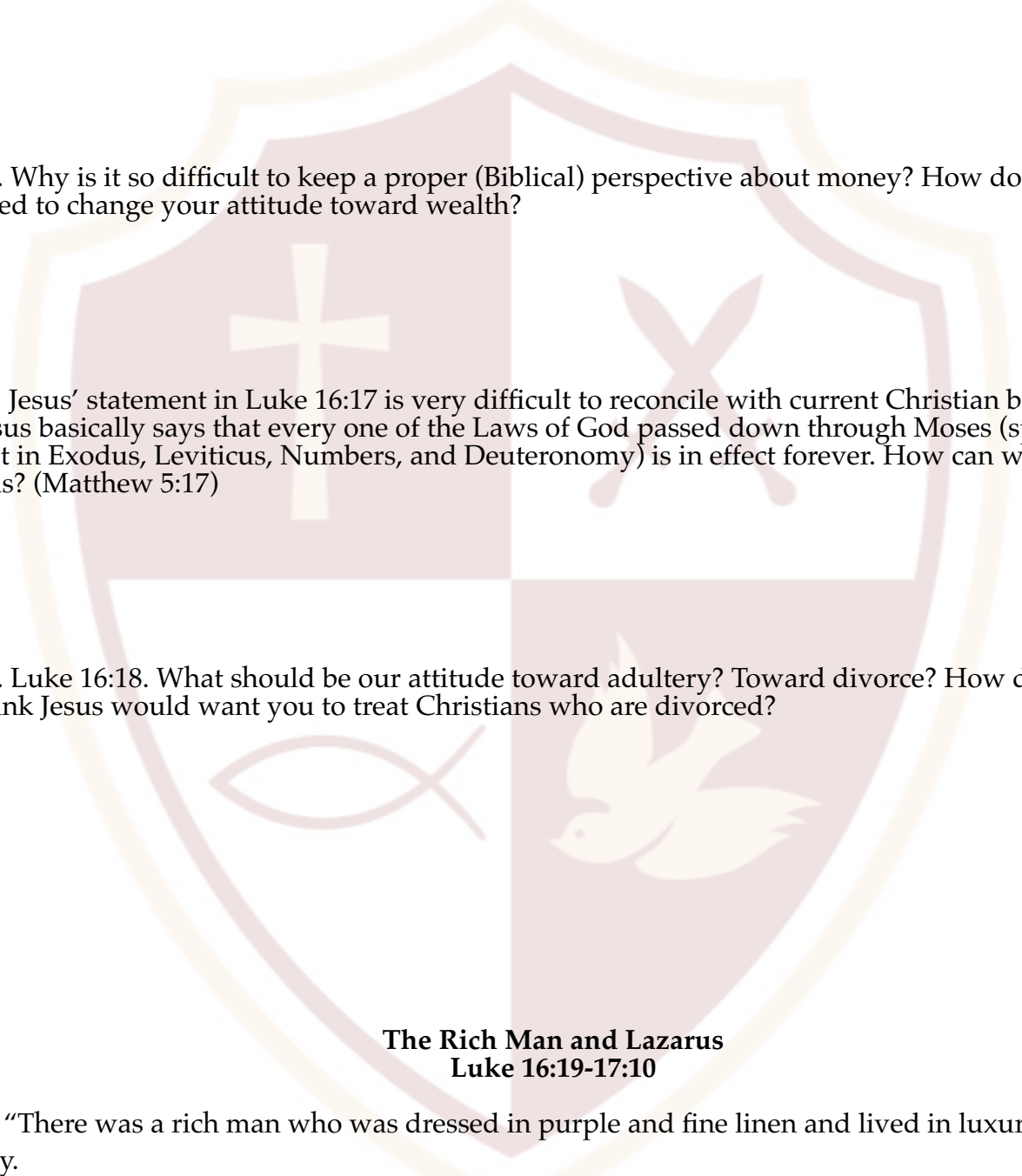
8. Verses 10 to 13 almost sound like proverbs of the New Testament. How do these relate to sayings in the "Wisdom books?" (Job 36:18, Psalm 37:16, 49:20, 62:10, Prov 8:18, 11:28, 23:4-5, 28:20, Eccl 5:10)

9. Verse 16:13 is one of the best-known Biblical teachings about money. What is the other one? (1 Timothy 6:10, Hebrews 13:5)

10. Why is it so difficult to keep a proper (Biblical) perspective about money? How do you need to change your attitude toward wealth?

11. Jesus' statement in Luke 16:17 is very difficult to reconcile with current Christian beliefs. Jesus basically says that every one of the Laws of God passed down through Moses (spelled out in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) is in effect forever. How can we explain this? (Matthew 5:17)

12. Luke 16:18. What should be our attitude toward adultery? Toward divorce? How do you think Jesus would want you to treat Christians who are divorced?



The Rich Man and Lazarus
Luke 16:19-17:10

19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day.

20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores

21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried.
23 In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.
24 So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’
25 “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.
26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’
27 “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father’s house,
28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’
29 “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’
30 “ ‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’
31 “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ “

Sin, Faith, Duty **Luke 17**

1 Jesus said to his disciples: “Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come.
2 It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin.
3 So watch yourselves. “If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.
4 If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.”
5 The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”
6 He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.
7 “Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’?
8 Would he not rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’?
9 Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?
10 So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’ “

Study Questions

Luke 16:19-17:10

1. What do you imagine heaven and hell will be like? What do your friends think?
2. Jesus tells the parable in Verses 17:19-31 to the Pharisees. What did the Pharisees believe that wealth represented?
3. What does the parable tell us about Lazarus the beggar? From what happened to him in Verse 22, what else do we know about him?
4. Did the rich man go to hell because he did not give food to Lazarus? (Read verses 19-21 very carefully.)
5. What does this parable reveal about heaven and hell?
6. The rich man thought his brothers would believe someone risen from the dead more than the scriptures. Abraham said they would not. What's the parallel today?

7. This parable focuses on earthly riches vs things of eternal value. What things have eternal value? How can you focus more on them than earthly riches?

8. In Luke 17, Jesus is now speaking to his disciples (not Pharisees or the crowds). Verse 1 in the English Standard Version reads: "Temptations to sin are sure to come,, but woe to the one through whom they come!" Who is Jesus speaking about? (Matthew 23:15)

9. What makes it difficult to forgive a person that has wronged you? How do you feel about forgiving a person again and again?

10. The disciples obviously found it difficult to forgive a brother over and over and asked Jesus how they could increase their faith so they could forgive the way Jesus required. What can you do to increase your faith?

11. How much faith is required to move a tree or move a mountain or do great things? To your knowledge, has anyone ever moved a tree with faith? Why not?

12. The example (17:7- 10) about the servant and master has three or four points for us today. What are they?

Luke 16:19-17:10 — The Rich Man and Lazarus

19 "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day.

20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores

- 21** and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.
- 22** "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried.
- 23** In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.
- 24** So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'
- 25** "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.
- 26** And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'
- 27** "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house,
- 28** for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'
- 29** "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'
- 30** " 'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'
- 31** "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

Sin, Faith, Duty
Luke 17

- 1** Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come.
- 2** It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin.
- 3** So watch yourselves.
- "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him.
- 4** If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him."
- 5** The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"
- 6** He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.
- 7** "Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'?
- 8** Would he not rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'?
- 9** Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do?
- 10** So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.' "

Study Questions

Luke 16:19-17:10

1. What do you imagine heaven and hell will be like? What do your friends think?
2. Jesus tells the parable in Verses 17:19-31 to the Pharisees. What did the Pharisees believe that wealth represented?
3. What does the parable tell us about Lazarus the beggar? From what happened to him in Verse 22, what else do we know about him?
4. Did the rich man go to hell because he did not give food to Lazarus? (Read verses 19-21 very carefully.)
5. What does this parable reveal about heaven and hell?
6. The rich man thought his brothers would believe someone risen from the dead more than the scriptures. Abraham said they would not. What's the parallel today?
7. This parable focuses on earthly riches vs things of eternal value. What things have eternal value? How can you focus more on them than earthly riches?

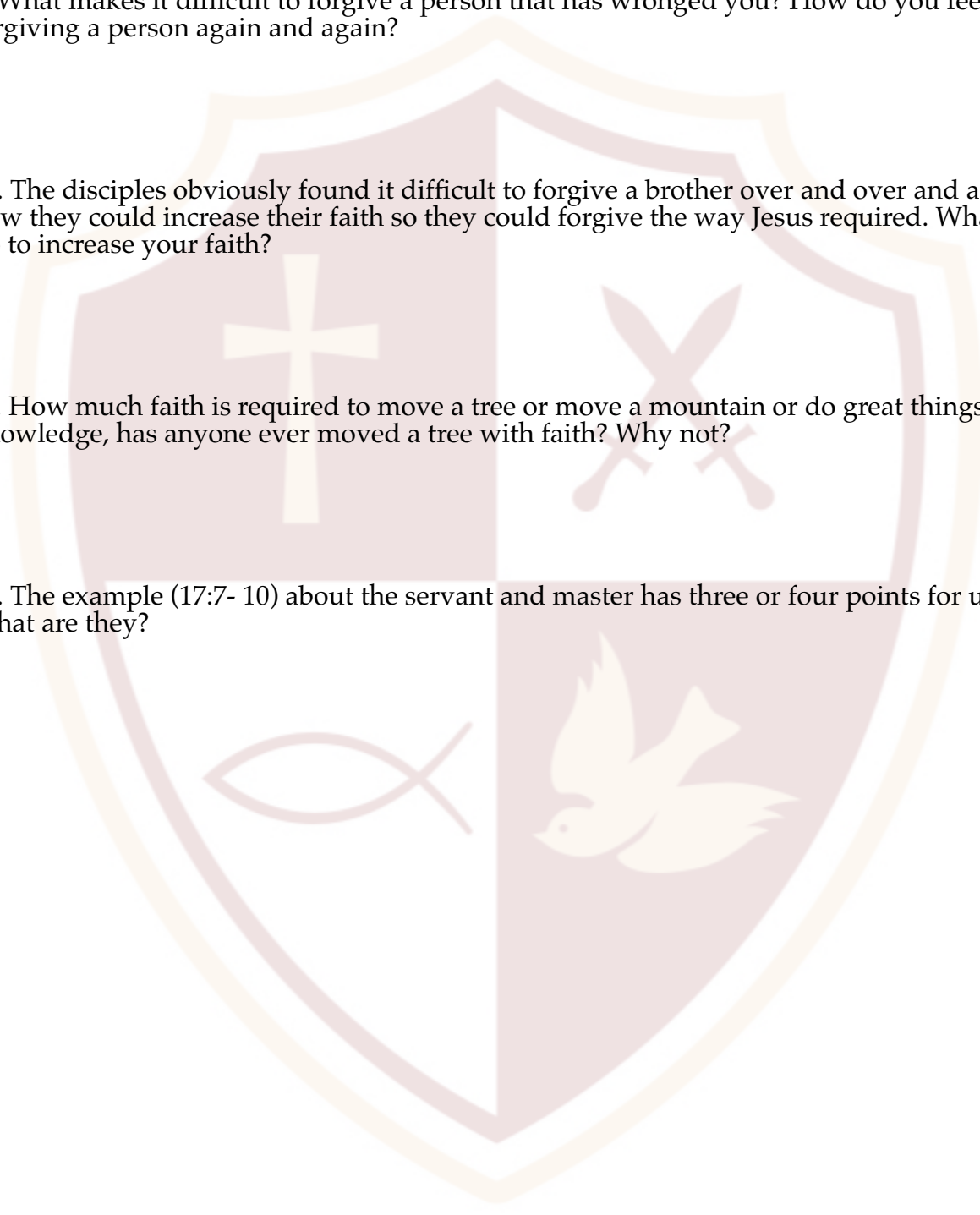
8. In Luke 17, Jesus is now speaking to his disciples (not Pharisees or the crowds). Verse 1 in the English Standard Version reads: "Temptations to sin are sure to come,, but woe to the one through whom they come!" Who is Jesus speaking about? (Matthew 23:15)

9. What makes it difficult to forgive a person that has wronged you? How do you feel about forgiving a person again and again?

10. The disciples obviously found it difficult to forgive a brother over and over and asked Jesus how they could increase their faith so they could forgive the way Jesus required. What can you do to increase your faith?

11. How much faith is required to move a tree or move a mountain or do great things? To your knowledge, has anyone ever moved a tree with faith? Why not?

12. The example (17:7- 10) about the servant and master has three or four points for us today. What are they?



What we assume about Heaven	What the Bible says about Heaven
Non-Earth	New Earth
Unfamiliar, otherworldly	Familiar, earthly
Disembodied	Resurrected (embodied)
Foreign	Home (all the comforts of home with all the innovations of an infinitely creative God)
Leave favorite things behind	Retaining the good; finding the best ahead
No time and space	Time and space
Static	Dynamic
Neither old nor new; strange and unknown	Both old and new
Nothing to do; floating on the clouds	A God to worship and serve; a universe to rule; purposeful work to accomplish; friends to enjoy
No learning or discovery; instant, complete knowledge	An eternity of learning and discovery
Boring	Fascinating
Loss of desire	Continuous fulfillment of desire
Absence of the terrible (but presence of little we desire)	Presence of the wonderful (everything we desire and nothing we don't)

Ten Healed of Leprosy Luke 17:11-37

- 11** Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.
- 12** As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance
- 13** and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"
- 14** When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.
- 15** One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice.
- 16** He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.
- 17** Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"
- 18** Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"
- 19** Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

The Coming of the Kingdom of God

- 20** Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation,
- 21** nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you."
- 22** Then he said to his disciples, "The time is coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it.

- 23 Men will tell you, 'There he is!' or 'Here he is!' Do not go running off after them.
- 24 For the Son of Man in his day will be like the lightning, which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other.
- 25 But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.
- 26 "Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man.
- 27 People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.
- 28 "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building.
- 29 But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.
- 30 "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.
- 31 On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything.
- 32 Remember Lot's wife!
- 33 Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.
- 34 I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left.
- 35 Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left."
- 36 To men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
- 37 "Where, Lord?" they asked. He replied, "Where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather."

Study Questions

Luke 17:11-37

1. How would you react if you were suddenly healed from a disease or sickness?
2. Why did Jesus tell the lepers to show themselves to the priest? (Leviticus 13:9- 11, 14:1-11)
3. What does this story say about the importance of thanking Jesus (or God)? How does Jesus want you to respond to the work he performs in your life?
4. What are the four elements of prayer? (Remember ACTS)

5. When have you failed to thank the Lord for something he has done in your life? What prevents us from thanking Him? Why is it sometimes difficult to say thank you to God? Does God demand that we thank him?

6. What would you do if you were told you had only a few months to live? How would you describe your readiness for Christ's second coming?

7. Where is the kingdom of God? (17:21)

8. What did Jesus tell his disciples they would long to see? (17:22)

9. How did Jesus describe what the days of the Son of Man will be like? (17:24- 30). What exactly are the "days of the Son of Man?"

10. Verse 17:33 is the second time Luke records those words of Jesus. What does that mean? (Luke 9:24-25)

11. Practically speaking, how could Jesus' teaching about losing your life make a difference in your daily routine? How can you reaffirm your commitment to follow Jesus whatever the cost?

12. What's the meaning of that last verse (17:37)?

The Parable of the Persistent Widow **Luke 18:1-17**

- 1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.
- 2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men.
- 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'
- 4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men,
- 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!' "
- 6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says.
- 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?
- 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

- 9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable:
- 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.
- 11 The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.
- 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'
- 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'
- 14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

The Little Children and Jesus

- 15 People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them.
- 16 But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.
- 17 I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

Study Questions **Luke 18:1-17**

1. When was a time when your persistence paid off?

2. Does persistence in prayer mean: a) endless repetition, b) long sessions of prayer, c) attending daily [or weekly] prayer meetings, d) keeping our requests constantly before God, e) something else (what?) What does it mean to be persistent in our prayers?

3. Why did the judge eventually give in to the woman's requests? (18:4-5)

4. How are God's actions the same—and how will they differ—from the unjust judge?

5. Why do people stop praying? How should we respond when we do not see our prayers answered? How can you guard against the temptation to give up praying when you do not get the results you expect?

6. How can we be sure we are praying for things that are within the will of God?

7. How does it feel to be in the presence of someone markedly better than you at what you do best?

8. What motivated the Pharisee to pray? (18:11-12)


9. What would be examples of "Pharisees" and "tax collectors" today? How important are outward appearances in our culture today? How do we judge people according to their outward appearance? Does outward appearance matter?

10. How do you approach God in your prayers? What enables us to be confident before God?

11. Why does God honor the prayers of a humble person?

12. Why did the disciples rebuke those who were bringing their babies to Jesus?

13. What childlike qualities do we need to enter the kingdom of God? What hinders us from having the childlike qualities that God wants us to have? What is one childlike quality you would like to cultivate this week?



The Rich Ruler
Luke 18:18-43

18 A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

19 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.

20 You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’ “

21 “All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said.

22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

23 When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth.

24 Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!

25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?”

27 Jesus replied, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”

28 Peter said to him, “We have left all we had to follow you!”

29 “I tell you the truth,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God

30 will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life.”

Jesus Again Predicts His Death

31 Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled.

32 He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him.

33 On the third day he will rise again."

34 The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.

A Blind Beggar Receives His Sight

35 As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging.

36 When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening.

37 They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."

38 He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

39 Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

40 Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him,

41 "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied.

42 Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you."

43 Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

Study Questions

Luke 18:18-43

1. From Verse 18:18 and Mark 10:17 and Matthew 19:22, what do we know about this ruler who confronts Jesus?

2. Why does Jesus answer, "no one is good—except God alone?" Is he denying his own divinity? Isn't Jesus actually God?

3. Jesus recited some of the commandments (v 20), the ruler said he kept them (v 21) and Jesus replied that he still lacked one thing (v 22). What did he lack?

4. Why did Jesus tell the ruler to sell all he had when he did not require this of other disciples?

5. What would giving up his money mean to the ruler? What would it mean to you?

6. What specific sacrifice do you think Jesus would ask of you if you asked him, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

7. Does this story bother you? Cause you to worry? Make you little bit anxious?

8. (Verses 31-34) How does it make you feel to know that Jesus was willing to suffer a great deal for you? (For YOU personally?) How should you respond to his willingness to suffer for you?

9. (Verses 35-43) What can we learn from the blind man in this account? Where did we last hear about persistence?

10. In what settings do you experience group or peer pressure? How should you respond to this pressure? In what situations should we not be concerned about the criticism of others?

11. What role did the blind man's faith play in his healing? In what way do we all need healing from the Lord?

12. Why do you think that God heals some people and not others?

13. How should you respond to the Lord's healing touch in your life or in the life of another believer?

Zacchaeus the Tax Collector Luke 19:1-27

1 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through.

2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.

3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd.

4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."

6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'" "

8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

The Parable of the Ten Minas

11 While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once.

12 He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return.

13 So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'

14 "But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.'

15 "He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.

16 "The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.'

17 " 'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.'

18 "The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.'

19 "His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.'

20 "Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid

away in a piece of cloth.

21 I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.'

22 "His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow?'

23 Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?'

24 "Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.'

25 "'Sir,' they said, 'he already has ten!'

26 "He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what he has will be taken away.'

27 But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them—bring them here and kill them in front of me."

Luke 19:1-27

1. Who are the despised and disrespected people in our society today?

2. What do we know about tax collectors in Israel in Jesus' day? Why were they so especially disliked?

3. Why did the people begin to mutter among themselves? (19:7)

4. How does a person's reputation affect our opinion of him or her? Are you inclined to share your faith with someone who you do not respect?

5. Do we have a responsibility to help someone with a bad reputation? How about a totally immoral person? An evil person?

6. Zacchaeus' faith resulted in action (19:8). Has your faith resulted in action? How? Isn't just having faith in Jesus enough? (James 2:14, 2:26)

7. Why did Jesus tell the parable of the ten minas (or ten servants)? (19:11)
[This is a similar, but not the same parable of the ten talents in Matthew 25:14-30.]

8. Verse 19:14 seems a bit odd until we know the players in this parable. Who is the "man of noble birth" (later called "the master")? Who are the servants? Who are the subjects (citizens, people, countrymen)?

9. Perhaps more than some others, this parable directly applies to us today. Why?

10. What does this parable teach us about stewardship?

11. Why is the master so hard on the man who did not use his mina to earn more? (A) he didn't share his master's interest in the kingdom, (B) he didn't trust his master's intentions, (C) his only concern was for himself, (D) he did nothing productive with the money?

12. What can we learn from this story about neglecting to obey the truth that we already know? What can you expect from the Lord if you use the resources he has given to you for his glory?

13. What can you do when you leave here to remind yourself of the resources and responsibilities that God has entrusted to you?

The Triumphal Entry

Luke 19:28-48

28 After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

29 As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,

30 "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here.

31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.' "

32 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them.

33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

34 They replied, "The Lord needs it."

35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it.

36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

38 "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

40 "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it

42 and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes.

43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side.

44 They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

Jesus at the Temple

45 Then he entered the temple area and began driving out those who were selling.

46 "It is written," he said to them, " 'My house will be a house of prayer'; but you have made it 'a den of robbers.' "

47 Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him.

48 Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

Study Questions

Luke 19:28-48

1. When have you seen a famous person? What did you do? How do people commonly show admiration for famous people?

2. What instructions did Jesus give his two disciples? (19:30-31) What did the disciples do? What can we learn from them?

3. Why did Jesus choose to ride on a colt or donkey? (Zechariah 9:9) What does this tell us about Jesus' regard for celebrity status?

4. Why did he choose this time of year to enter Jerusalem?

5. How did people react to Jesus' entrance into the city? (19:37-38) What did the people expect that Jesus would do? Did they understand the prophets and the real mission of Jesus?

6. Why were the Pharisees upset? Why did they want Jesus to rebuke his disciples? How did Jesus respond to them?

7. Jesus implies in verse 19:42 that the people of Jerusalem missed a golden opportunity. What was it? What did Jesus say would happen to the city? Did it happen? When? What can we learn from this?

8. What has the Lord done for you recently that causes you to praise him?

9. (Verse 19:48) Where is it written that “My house will be a house of prayer?” (Isaiah 56:7)

10. Is this the first time Jesus cleared the temple? (John 2:13-17)

11. What was the real purpose of the temple? Is a church today like a temple in Jesus’ day? How could a church be made a “den of robbers?” How do we misuse a church for our own purposes? How can we guard against that?

12. What can we learn about God from this passage?

13. Blasphemy was the reason the Pharisees and leaders of the people finally used to convict Jesus before Pilate. But the real question is, why were they so afraid of him in the first place? Why were they so anxious to kill him?

The Authority of Jesus Questioned
Luke 20:1-19

1 One day as he was teaching the people in the temple courts and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him.

2 “Tell us by what authority you are doing these things,” they said. “Who gave you this authority?”

3 He replied, “I will also ask you a question. Tell me,

4 John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or from men?”

5 They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Why didn't you believe him?'"

6 But if we say, 'From men,' all the people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John was a prophet."

7 So they answered, "We don't know where it was from."

8 Jesus said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

The Parable of the Tenants

9 He went on to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time.

10 At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed.

11 He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed.

12 He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out.

13 "Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.'

14 "But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. 'This is the heir,' they said. 'Let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.'

15 So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. "What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them?"

16 He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When the people heard this, they said, "May this never be!"

17 Jesus looked directly at them and asked, "Then what is the meaning of that which is written: " 'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone'?"

18 Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."

19 The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

Study Questions **Luke 20:1-19**

1. Have you ever been questioned about authority that was rightfully yours? When? Why? How did you react?

2. How were the Pharisees trying to trap Jesus with their question in 20:2?

3. In what ways were the actions of the religious leaders hypocritical? Are you ever hypocritical? How can you guard against that?

4. Why did Jesus answer them with another question? How did his question stump the religious leaders? How did they finally respond to Jesus?

5. When have you questioned God's authority in a particular area of your life?

6. Why did Jesus choose to tell a parable in this situation?

7. Let's sort out the players in the parable: who does the vineyard owner represent? The servants the owner sent to the vineyard? The tenants? The son of the vineyard owner?

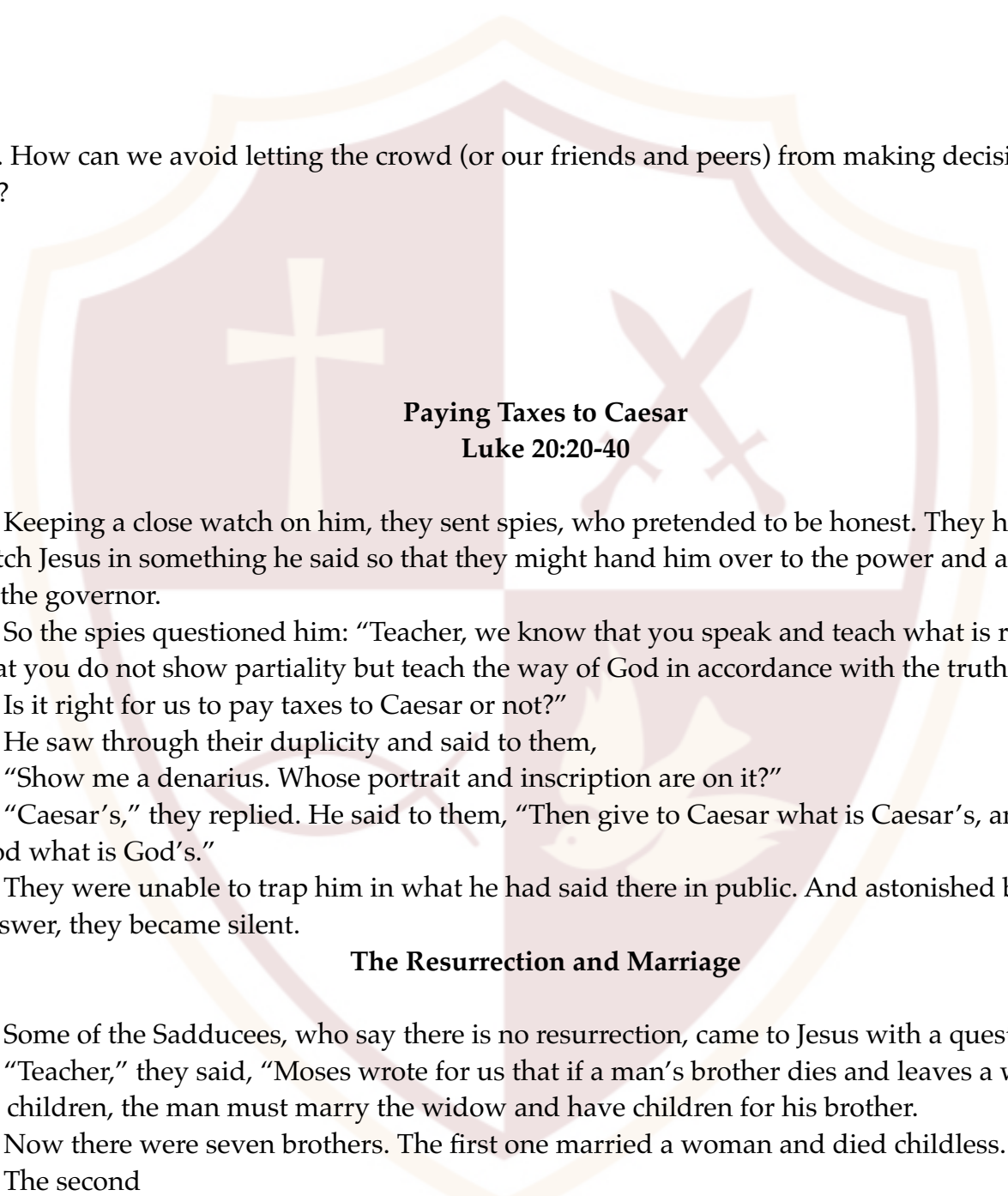
8. What are the main points of the parable?

9. What does the parable tell us about the fate that awaits those who reject Jesus as the Messiah or as the son of God?

10. How did the people respond to the parable? (20:16) How did the religious leaders respond? (20:19)

11. What is the meaning of the scripture that Jesus quoted in 20:17-18? (Psalm 118:22)

12. How can we avoid letting the crowd (or our friends and peers) from making decisions for us?



Paying Taxes to Caesar Luke 20:20-40

20 Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be honest. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor.

21 So the spies questioned him: "Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right, and that you do not show partiality but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth.

22 Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

23 He saw through their duplicity and said to them,

24 "Show me a denarius. Whose portrait and inscription are on it?"

25 "Caesar's," they replied. He said to them, "Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

26 They were unable to trap him in what he had said there in public. And astonished by his answer, they became silent.

The Resurrection and Marriage

27 Some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus with a question.

28 "Teacher," they said, "Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and have children for his brother.

29 Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a woman and died childless.

30 The second

31 and then the third married her, and in the same way the seven died, leaving no children.

32 Finally, the woman died too.

33 Now then, at the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?"

34 Jesus replied, "The people of this age marry and are given in marriage.

35 But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage,

36 and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection.

37 But in the account of the bush, even Moses showed that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord 'the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.'

38 He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

39 Some of the teachers of the law responded, "Well said, teacher!"

40 And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Study Questions

Luke 20:20-40

1. What do you and your friends think about having to pay taxes? How did the Jews feel about having to pay taxes to the Roman Empire?

2. What does "flattery" mean? How did the spies use flattery when questioning Jesus? Do you like to be flattered? Why do we flatter others? Should we use flattery or should we avoid it?

3. In what way was the question the spies asked Jesus a trick question? (20:21-22)

4. How did Jesus answer the question? What does this reveal about Jesus' wisdom?

5. As Christians, do we have a responsibility to pay taxes and obey the laws of our government? When should a Christian go against the demands of government?

6. Jesus said we should give to God what is God's. (20:25) What belongs to God that you should give to Him? What have you held back from the Lord?

7. In the world today, why do you think there is so much confusion and controversy about the afterlife?

8. How were the Sadducees trying to trick Jesus with their question? (20:27-33)

9. What was the basis of the Sadducees beliefs? How can we guard against misinterpreting Scripture as the Sadducees did in Jesus' day?

10. How do academic or speculative questions like this one hinder our seeking after God? (20:27-33)

11. Jesus answered the question the Sadducees asked and he also answered their unasked question which was what?

12. What can we learn from Jesus' example that would help us answer tough questions like: "How can a loving God allow people to starve?" or "If God knows what I'm going to do, do I really have free choice?"

13. In the age to come, what did Jesus promise those who are part of the resurrection? (20:36) Why is belief in the resurrection so important to Christians? How should the promise of eternal life affect your everyday actions?

Luke 20:41-21:4 Whose Son Is the Christ?

41 Then Jesus said to them, "How is it that they say the Christ is the Son of David?

42 David himself declares in the Book of Psalms: " 'The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand

43 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

44 David calls him 'Lord.' How then can he be his son?" Jesus Warns Against the Religious Leaders

45 While all the people were listening, Jesus said to his disciples,

46 "Beware of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets.

47 They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely."

The Widow's Offering

Luke 21

1 As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury.

2 He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins.

3 "I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others.

4 All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Study Questions

Luke 20:41-21:4

1. Why did Jesus ask a question of the religious leaders at this point? (20:40)

2. Did the Pharisees think the Messiah would be a descendent of David?

3. If the Pharisees understood that the Messiah would be a descendent of David, why did Jesus quote the verse from Psalm 110:1 (written by David)?

4. What's the meaning of "The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand?"

5. Looking further into 20:42-43 (Psalm 110:1), what does it mean to make your enemies your footstool? (Joshua 10:24-26)

6. (20:45-47) What did the teachers of the law seek? Of what were they guilty?

7. How did Jesus say that proud people would be treated for their actions? (20:47)

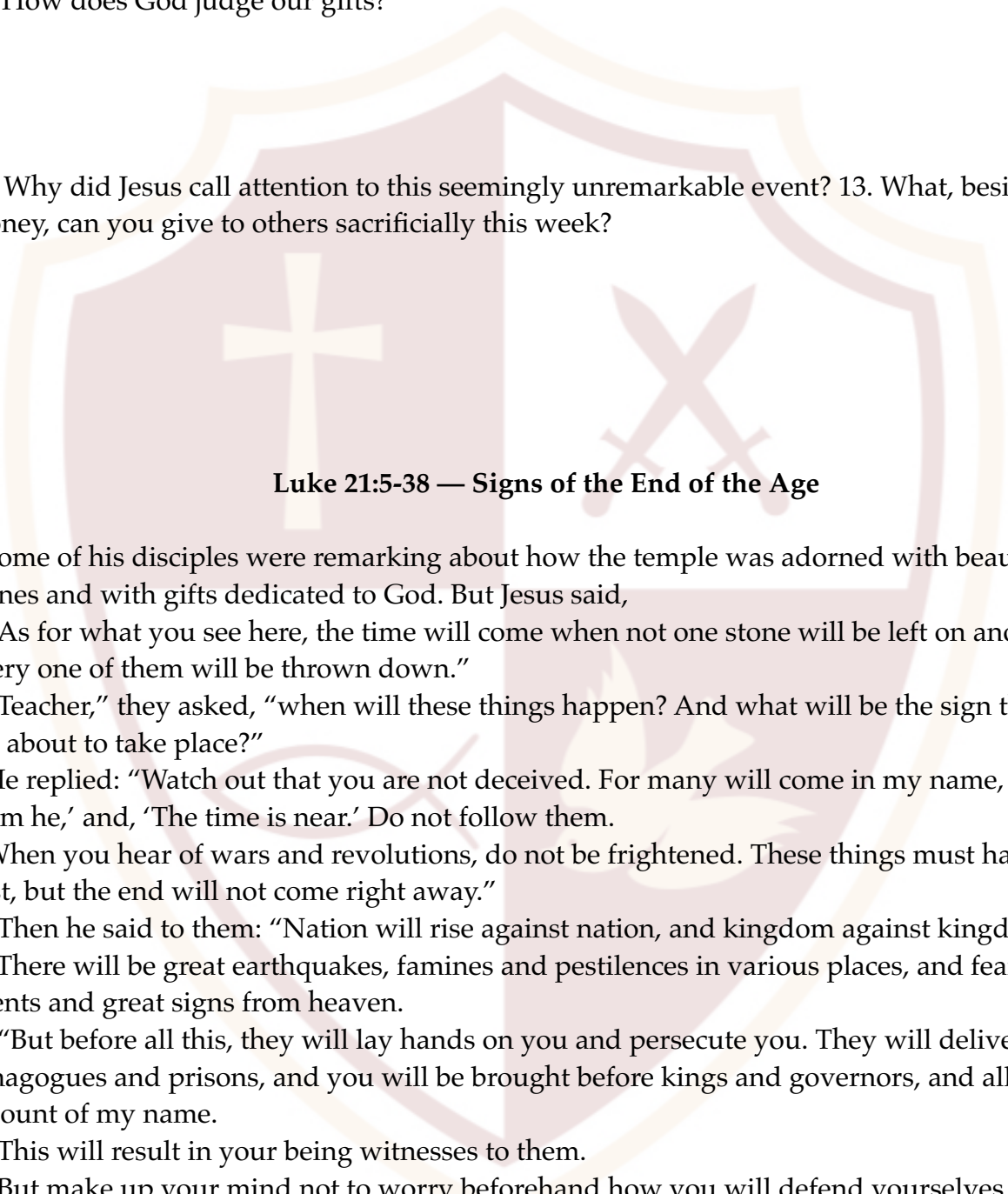
8. How do proud Christians hinder the work of God? How can you prevent yourself from doing works for show?

9. (21:1-4) Have you even given sacrificially to a cause (money, time, other)?

10. How did the woman “put in more than all the others” when her gift was much smaller? (21:3) What had she sacrificed? (21:4) Why do you think she gave to the church “all she had to live on?”

11. How does God judge our gifts?

12. Why did Jesus call attention to this seemingly unremarkable event? 13. What, besides money, can you give to others sacrificially this week?



Luke 21:5-38 — Signs of the End of the Age

5 Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said,

6 “As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down.”

7 “Teacher,” they asked, “when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?”

8 He replied: “Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and, ‘The time is near.’ Do not follow them.

9 When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.”

10 Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

11 There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

12 “But before all this, they will lay hands on you and persecute you. They will deliver you to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name.

13 This will result in your being witnesses to them.

14 But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves.

15 For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict.

16 You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death.

- 17 All men will hate you because of me.
- 18 But not a hair of your head will perish.
- 19 By standing firm you will gain life.
- 20 “When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near.
- 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city.
- 22 For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written.
- 23 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people.
- 24 They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.
- 25 “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.
- 26 Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken.
- 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.
- 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”
- 29 He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees.
- 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near.
- 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.
- 32 “I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.
- 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.
- 34 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you unexpectedly like a trap.
- 35 For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth.
- 36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”
- 37 Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives,
- 38 and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.

Study Questions
Luke 21:5-38

1. What do you think of people who make predictions about the future (seers, clairvoyants, Nostradamus, astrologers, prophets, etc)?

2. How did the disciples respond to Jesus' prediction concerning the temple? (21:7, Matthew 24:3)

3. What signs of the end of the age did Jesus tell us to expect? (21:8-13)

4. Are the events Jesus described in Verses 21:8-18 only sign of the end of the age or are some or all of them characteristic of the present age? Which signs have been fulfilled or do you see being fulfilled today?

5. Can you see why some people have predicted the end of the age would occur in 130 (Rabbi Jose), 400 (Hippolytus), 950 (Adso of Montier-en-Der), 1000 (many), 1533 (Michael Stiefel), 1715 (Isaac Newton), 1836 (John Wesley), 1914 (Jehovah's Witnesses), 1970 (The True Light Church of Christ), 1986 (Moses David), 1988 (Lighthouse Gospel Tract Foundation, others), 2000-2001 (many). For hundreds of additional dates, see <http://www.bible.ca/pre-date-setters.htm>.

6. Why did Jesus tell his followers not to worry about what will happen to them? (21:14) What promises did Jesus give his disciples? (21:18-19)

7. Why will a time of punishment be necessary? (21:22) (Isaiah 63:4, Jeremiah 5:29, Hosea 9:7)

8. What should the response of Christians be to the many signs of the end? (21:28)

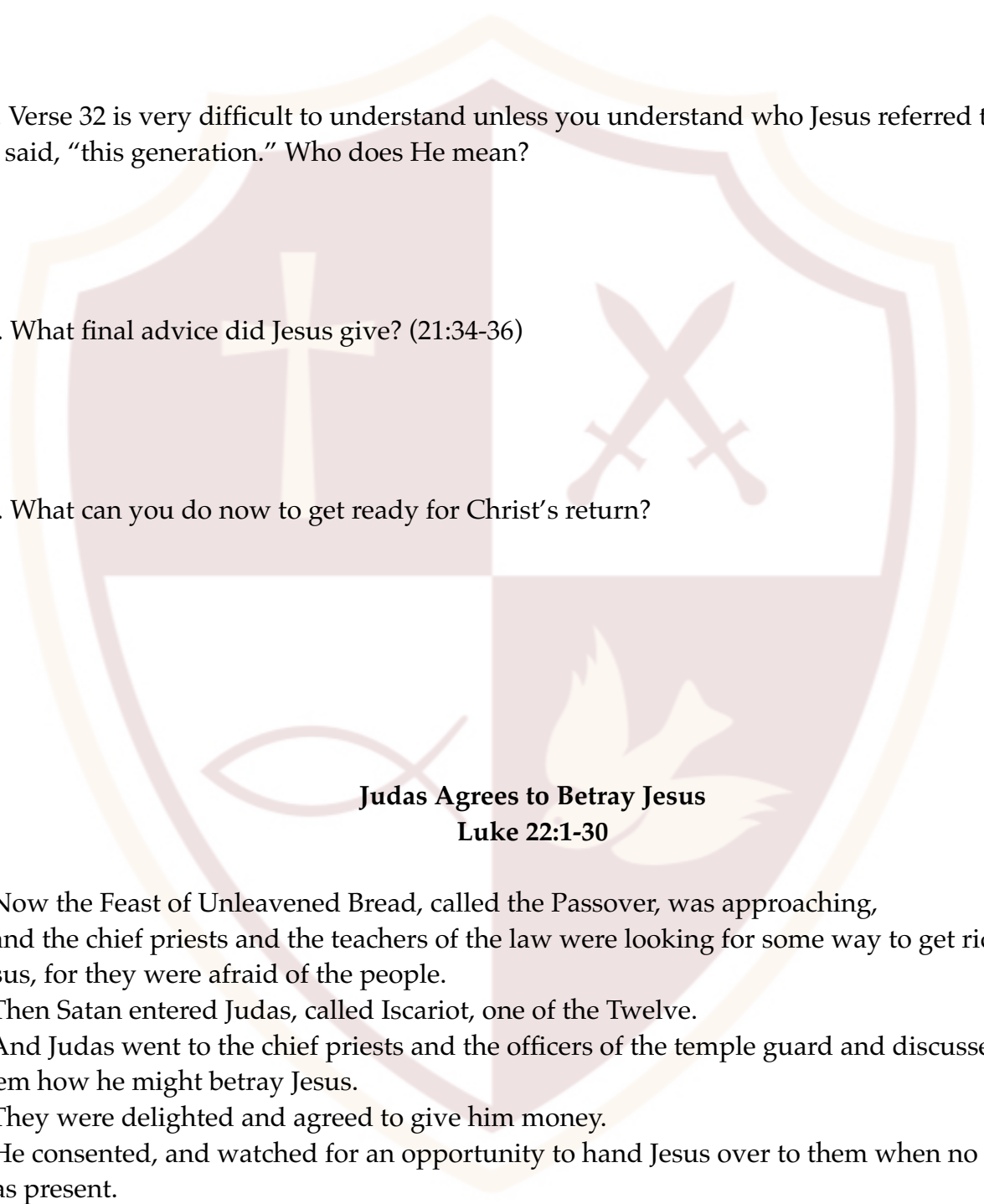
9. Why would the wisdom Jesus provides be so necessary during the persecution?

10. Why did Jesus tell the short parable in Verses 29-31?

11. Verse 32 is very difficult to understand unless you understand who Jesus referred to when he said, "this generation." Who does He mean?

12. What final advice did Jesus give? (21:34-36)

13. What can you do now to get ready for Christ's return?



Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus
Luke 22:1-30

1 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching,

2 and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people.

3 Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.

4 And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus.

5 They were delighted and agreed to give him money.

6 He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

The Last Supper

7 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.

8 Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."
9 "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.
10 He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters,
11 and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'
12 He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there."
13 They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.
14 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.
15 And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.
16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."
17 After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you.
18 For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."
19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."
20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.
21 But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table.
22 The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him."
23 They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.
24 Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.
25 Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors.
26 But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.
27 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.
28 You are those who have stood by me in my trials.
29 And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me,
30 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Study Questions

Luke 22:1-30

1. What motivated Judas to approach the religious leaders and offer to betray Jesus?

2. Has greed or materialism ever negatively influenced your decisions? Have your selfish desires ever interfered with your relationship with others? With Jesus?

3. In what areas of your life are you most vulnerable to temptation? How can you protect yourself against the temptations of this world? Of Satan?

4. Why did Judas watch “for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present?” (Luke 4:28-30)

5. What is the significance of the Passover celebration? What do you think is important to remember about the past? Why?

6. Why did Jesus eagerly desire to eat the Passover meal with his disciples? (22:15-16)

7. What did Jesus instruct his disciples to do in remembrance of him? (22:17-20) Why is it so important for Christians to observe Communion?

8. Why do you believe Jesus chose the elements of bread and wine to represent his body and the new covenant?

9. Some religious denominations require people to complete a course of study and be confirmed (usually around age 16) before they can receive Communion. Other churches allow 3 and 4-year-olds to partake of Communion. What did Jesus teach about this? What do you think?

10. Christians differ in their interpretation of the meaning of Communion. There are four main views: (1) the bread and wine actually become Christ's body and blood. (2) The bread and wine remain unchanged but Christ is spiritually present by faith in and through them. (3) the bread and wine remain unchanged and are lasting memorials to Christ's sacrifice. (4) by partaking of the new covenant (Communion) our sins are forgiven. Is one right and the others wrong? Does it really matter? What is most important about Communion?

11. The most important event in human history was about to take place, but the disciples were arguing about what? (22:24) Jesus answered them with a familiar theme. What was it? (Matt 19:30, 20:16, Mark 9:35, 10:31, Luke 9:48, James 4:6)

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial; Instructs the Apostles
Luke 22:31-62

31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.

32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

33 But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."

34 Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

35 Then Jesus asked them, "When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?" "Nothing," they answered.

36 He said to them, "But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one.

37 It is written: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors'; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment."

38 The disciples said, "See, Lord, here are two swords." "That is enough," he replied. Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

39 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him.

40 On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation."

41 He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed,

42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.

44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

45 When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow.

46 "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation."

Jesus Betrayed and Arrested

47 While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him,

48 but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

49 When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?"

50 And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

51 But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

52 Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs?"

53 Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns."

Peter Denies Knowing Jesus

54 Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance.

55 But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them.

56 A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."

57 But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.

58 A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." "Man, I am not!" Peter replied.

59 About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."

60 Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed.

61 The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.”

62 And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Study Questions

Luke 22:31-62

1. What did Jesus mean when he used the metaphor, “Satan has asked to sift you as wheat” in Verse 22:31?
2. Jesus predicted that one disciple would betray him (Mark 14:18) and one would deny him (Luke 22:34). Aren’t both sins equally bad? Why the big difference in the fate of Peter and Judas?
3. In Verses 22:35-36, why did Jesus reverse his earlier advice to his disciples on how to travel in Verse 9:3?
4. (Verses 39-46) What can we learn from Jesus’ example dealing with difficult circumstances in his life? How do you think God wants you to respond to painful events in you life? What role should prayer play in times of trouble?
5. For what situation in your life right now do you need to say to God, “Not my will, but yours be done”?

6. (Verses 47-53) How would you compare Jesus' attitudes and actions with those of his disciples? His enemies? What impresses you most about him?

7. What did Jesus mean when he said to the priests, officers, and elders, "this is your hour—when darkness reigns"? (22:53)

8. What principles for dealing with difficult and stressful circumstances do you see in Jesus' example? How do you respond when you face a difficult situation?

9. Is there some way you could prepare yourself now for future stresses and uncertainties? What could or should you do now?

10. What would make Peter deny that he knew Jesus, when earlier he said he was willing to die for him?

11. (Verses 54-62) When have you ever done something because of peer pressure, then later regretted it? What can you do to stand against peer pressure to do things you know are wrong?

12. We learn a lot about Peter in these verses. Do you see yourself anything like Peter? Which apostle do you most closely resemble? (Matthew 10:2-4)

Luke 22:63-23:25 — The Guards Mock Jesus

63 The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him.

64 They blindfolded him and demanded, “Prophecy! Who hit you?”

65 And they said many other insulting things to him.

Jesus Before Pilate and Herod

66 At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them.

67 “If you are the Christ,” they said, “tell us.”

Jesus answered, “If I tell you, you will not believe me,

68 and if I asked you, you would not answer.

69 But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.”

70 They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?” He replied, “You are right in saying I am.”

71 Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips.”

Luke 23

1 Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate.

2 And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king.”

3 So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied.

4 Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”

5 But they insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”

6 On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean.

7 When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle.

9 He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer.

10 The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him.

11 Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate.

12 That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

13 Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people,

14 and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him.

15 Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death.

16 Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.”

17 (For of necessity he must release one unto them at the feast.)

18 With one voice they cried out, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!"

19 (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

20 Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again.

21 But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

22 For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him."

23 But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed.

24 So Pilate decided to grant their demand.

25 He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

Study Questions

Luke 22:63-23:25

1. (22:63-65) What did Luke imply about Jesus' actions by not mentioning any details about how he responded to the taunting of the guards?

2. How are the details of Jesus' mockery relevant to us today? How does Jesus want us to react to criticism, insults, or scorn?

3. Why do you think God spares some believers from persecution but not others? In what way might you actually benefit by suffering for your faith?

4. (22:66-23:25) Why might someone try to influence the process of justice deceitfully?

5. Of what was Jesus accused? (23:2) Were the charges true? Do we sometimes mix lies with the truth? Why?

6. Pilate sent Jesus to Herod (23:7). How would you feel if you were Herod and Jesus refused to speak to you? (23:9) Herod had previously beheaded John the Baptist; why did he do nothing to Jesus except send him back to Pilate? (23:11)

7. In Verse 23:16 Pilate offered to the leaders and crowd to punish Jesus and release him. What did “punish him” mean?

8. Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent. Pilate was the ruler and could have released him. Why didn't he do so? In Pilate's place, what would you have done?

9. How did the fear of losing his position and pressure from others influence Pilate? Do you ever feel such fear or pressure? How do you respond to it?

10. Have you ever been mistreated or ridiculed or ostracized because of your faith in Jesus? How did you respond? How should Christians respond?

11. In Luke 19:45, Jesus confronted injustice with action but here he was silent. Why? What particular form of injustice makes your blood boil? How do you decide to fight for what is right and when not to? Have you faced that decision recently?

12. What is the key message for you in this familiar but horrifying chapter of Jesus' life story?

The Crucifixion

Luke 23:26-49

26 As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

27 A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.

28 Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children.

29 For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!'

30 Then 'they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!" '

31 For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed.

33 When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.

34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

35 The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One."

36 The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar

37 and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

38 There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence?"

41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

43 Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

44 It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour,

45 for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

47 The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man."

48 When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away.

49 But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Study Questions

The Crucifixion Luke 23:26-49

1. Why did the soldiers seize Simon of Cyrene? What do their actions reveal about Jesus' condition?
2. Why did such a large crowd gather?
3. Why did Jesus tell the women who mourned him to “weep for yourselves and for your children” and also say, “Blessed are the barren women...?”
4. What is the meaning of the proverb in Verse 31? (For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?)
5. What did the first criminal demand of Jesus? What was the request of the other one? How did Jesus respond to him? What do Jesus' words reveal about faith, deeds and conversion?
6. In what ways are we all like the criminals on the cross?

7. Luke records three of the last utterances of Christ on the cross (verses 23:34, 43, and 46). How many times did Christ speak on the cross? What did he say? (John 19:26-27, 28, 30, Matthew 27:46, 50, Mark 15:34, 37)

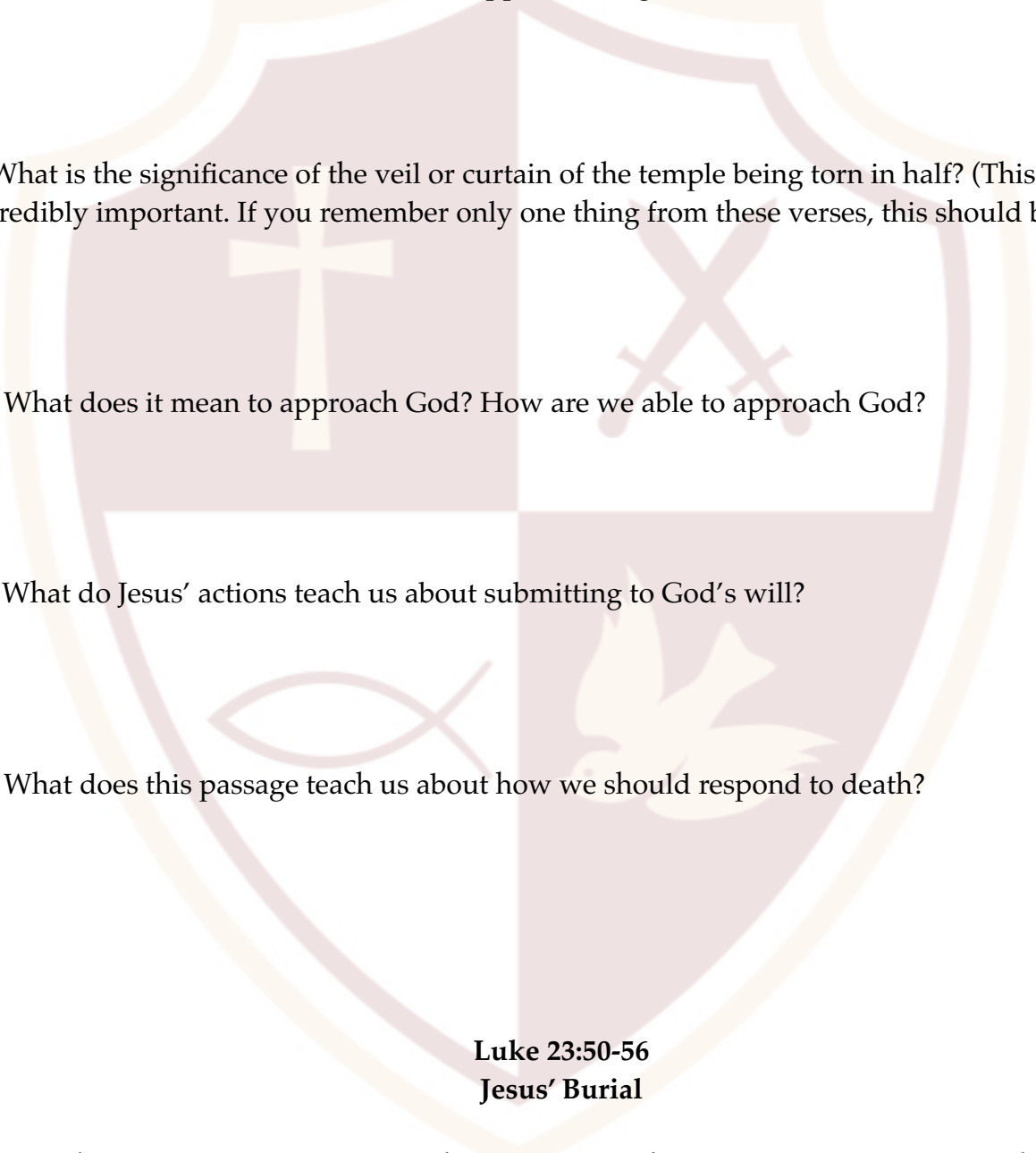
8. Which of these things did NOT happen when Jesus died? (Matthew 27:51-53) A. the veil of the temple was torn in two; B. an earthquake; C. many saints were raised from the dead; D. the moon turned blood red; E. the sun stopped shining.

9. What is the significance of the veil or curtain of the temple being torn in half? (This is incredibly important. If you remember only one thing from these verses, this should be it!)

10. What does it mean to approach God? How are we able to approach God?

11. What do Jesus' actions teach us about submitting to God's will?

12. What does this passage teach us about how we should respond to death?



Luke 23:50-56
Jesus' Burial

50 Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, **51** who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God.

52 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body.

53 Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid.

54 It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

55 The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it.

56 Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

The Resurrection

Luke 24:1-12

1 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.

2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them.

5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead?"

6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:

7 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' "

8 Then they remembered his words.

9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.

10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles.

11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.

12 Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

Study Questions

Luke 23:50 - 24:12

1. Who was Joseph in Verse 50? (John 19:38) What was courageous about what he did? What can we learn from his example?

2. How much of a risk-taker are you? What's the biggest risk you've ever taken?

3. What risks are involved in serving Christ today?

4. Which kind of disciple of Jesus are you most like: Peter, John, or Joseph?

5. In what ways can we show our respect for Jesus Christ today?

6. When is it difficult to openly demonstrate our loyalty to Jesus? Why?

7. What did the women followers of Jesus do that his disciples did not do? Were they rewarded for their devotion? How?

8. As believers, we may feel that we can't do much for Jesus. How can the women followers of Jesus serve as an example to us?

9. Why is Jesus' resurrection central to the Christian faith? Why is it so important? What would be different if Jesus had not risen from the dead?

10. In 24:11, why did the disciples express disbelief even though Jesus had told them clearly that he would arise from the dead? Why do people sometimes not believe the truth of the gospel?

11. What does this passage teach us about witnessing and evangelism? Does it encourage you to share your faith with others?

12. What should you do if others reject you or your testimony when you share your faith? Do we have a responsibility to witness to others even if they continue to reject the gospel?

Luke 24:13-35 — On the Road to Emmaus

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.

14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.

15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them;

16 but they were kept from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast.

18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

19 “What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.

20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him;

21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.

22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning

23 but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.

24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”

25 He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

26 Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?”

27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther.

29 But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.

31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together

34 and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."

35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.



Study Questions

On the Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-35 —

1. Have you ever suddenly understood a truth that had earlier confused you? What was it like?

2. How could the two disciples on the road miss the significance of history's greatest event? What emotions did the two men display? (24:17)

3. How had the events of the last few days crushed the expectations of the two men?

4. How are your expectations of the Christian life sometimes changed by life's trials? What did you think your life would be like after you became a Christian? Have you ever felt like running away or throwing in the towel spiritually?

5. To compound the problem, the two disciples were leaving Jerusalem, walking away from the fellowship of believers there. Have you ever turned your back on things when your hopes were dashed and your plans frustrated? What would be better to do in those situations?

6. Why are we so often “slow of heart to believe?” (24:25) Have you ever been guilty of unbelief? What do you think prevents people from believing in Jesus?

7. Why did Jesus explain the scriptures to the men? (24:25-27) If you are puzzled by deep questions or problems, where can you turn? If you don't understand parts of the Bible, where can you turn?

8. What great truths has God taught you that you failed to understand at first?

9. How did these men respond to their encounter with Jesus? (24:33-35) Why did they then want to return to Jerusalem?

10. What is the thing that triggers a spiritual crisis for you? (A) financial panic, (B) anger with God over personal tragedy, (C) disappointment in a relationship, (D) domestic problems/hassles, (E) questions/doubts about my faith, (F) lack of direction from God, (G) disillusionment with my church, (H) other _____.

11. What could you do in the future to prevent yourself from failing to recognize God's voice and directions? What would help you recognize Jesus walking along side you when you are down spiritually?

Jesus Appears to the Disciples Behind Locked Doors

Luke 24:36-53

- 36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."
- 37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.
- 38 He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?"
- 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."
- 40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.
- 41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"
- 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish,
- 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence. Jesus Appears to the Disciples in Jerusalem
- 44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Every- thing must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."
- 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.
- 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,
- 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
- 48 You are witnesses of these things.
- 49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

The Ascension

- 50 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.
- 51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.
- 52 Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.
- 53 And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

Study Questions

Luke 24:36-53

1. What do you like or dislike about surprises?

2. Why were the disciples frightened? (24:37)

3. What can we learn from Jesus resurrected body about the body we will receive when we are resurrected? (1 Corinthians 15:42-50)

4. How did the disciples react to the evidence and convincing words of Jesus? (24:41) What emotions did they display? Note: 40 days have elapsed between Verse 24:43 and 24:44.

5. When did the disciples finally understand the Scriptures? (24:44-45) What does this teach us about God's role in understanding the Gospel? How can we expect to understand the Scriptures?

6. What did Jesus explain would be the result of his resurrection? (24:47)

7. What causes us to disbelieve the Scriptures? What proof did (or do) you need to be convinced of the truth of the Gospel?

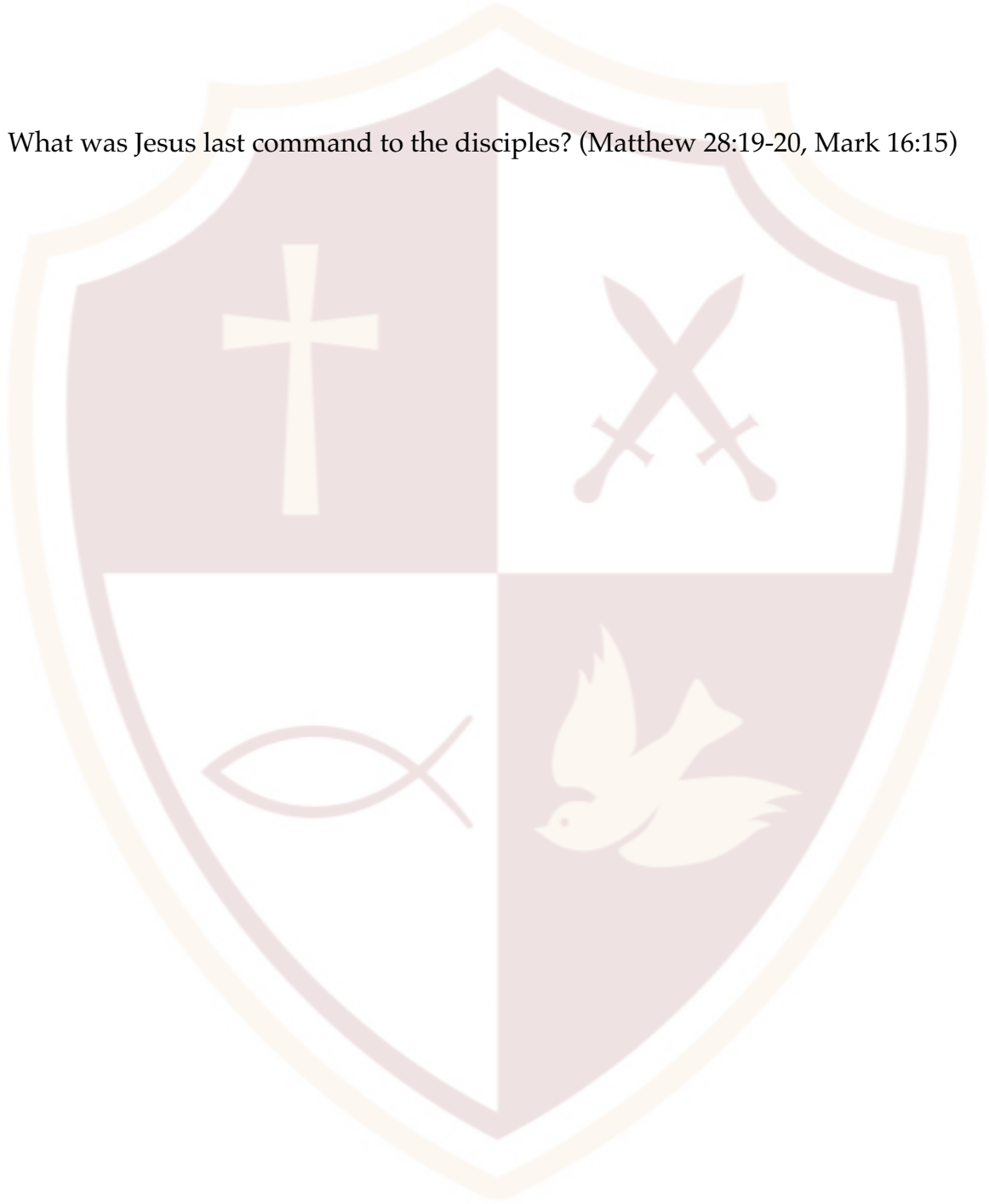
8. Why did Jesus bless his disciples before his ascension? (24:50)

9. What was the response of the disciples to Jesus' ascension? What is significant about the fact that his followers worshiped him? (24:52)

10. How can we experience joy in Christ?

11. Why is Jesus worthy of our worship? Why is it appropriate and important for Christians to praise and worship Jesus?

12. What was Jesus last command to the disciples? (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15)



Resurrection Appearances								
EVENT	PLACE	DAY OF THE WEEK	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN	ACTS	1 COR
The empty tomb	Jerusalem	Resurrection Sunday	28:1-10	16:1-8	24:1-2	20:1-9		
To Mary Magdalene in the garden	Jerusalem	Resurrection Sunday		16:9-11		20:11-18		
To other women	Jerusalem	Resurrection Sunday	28:9-10					
To two minute going to Emmaus	Road to Emmaus	Resurrection Sunday		16:12-13	24:13-32			
To Peter	Jerusalem	Resurrection Sunday			24:34			15:5
To the ten disciples in the upper room	Jerusalem	Resurrection Sunday			24:3-43	20:19-25		
To the eleven disciples	Jerusalem	Following Sunday		16:14		20:26-31		15:5
To seven disciples fishing	Sea of Galilee	Some time later				21:1-23		
To the 11 disciples on a mountain	Galilee	Some time later	28:16-20	16:15-18				
To more than five hundred	Unknown	Some time later						15:6
To James	Unknown	Some time later						15:7
To his disciples at his ascension	Mount Olives	Forty days after the resurrection			24:44-49		1:3-8	
To Paul	Damascus	Several years later					9:1-9 22:3-16 26:9-18	9:1