

Lesson Five
True *AND* Ready

Luke 10:1 — Luke 12:59
Lesson 5 of 8
Through the Gospel of Luke

Small Group Discussion Time

Review of Lesson Four: Luke 8:40-9:62

Group Guidelines

- ♥ We come from varying faith backgrounds, so please be thoughtful of denominational and religious differences.
- 📖 God's Word is our standard. We'll use the Bible - not personal opinion, popular teachers, or church tradition - as our guide for everything. We are using the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible for this study.
- 🕒 Do not rely on a commentary or study notes in your Bible. Trust God, pray, ask for wisdom then read and answer on your own.
- 👉 We're all learning. Be gracious and patient with yourself and with others. No one has it all figured out.
- ✓ This isn't a personal opinion study. This is a **Bible study**. So, there are going to be "right" and "wrong" answers. Try your best and have a humble and teachable spirit.
- 🗣️ You don't have to share, but if you did the reading and the study this week, why not chime in? We all benefit from one another's thoughts and even questions. I bet you have something great to share! 😊
- 👂 Didn't finish the study this week? That's ok. Life gets busy. You're here! Yay you! This will be a good week for you to listen and perhaps jot down answers as others share.
- ⌚ Be considerate of your "slice of the pie" and how much time you are taking to talk. Share your thoughts, and allow time for others to do the same. Please save anecdotes and for social time. Guard your group time for the Word and learning.
- 🕒 Watch the time. Please return to our teaching session on time. (7:40pm for the evening group or 10:40am for the morning group)

1. Open in Prayer
2. Welcome new members 😊 *We're Glad You're Here!*
3. Circulate the Attendance Page & Prayer Journal
4. Review and Discuss the previous week's Bible study. Save other topics for later.

To discuss and review...Do as many as time allows.

Discussion questions are marked with "****" throughout the lesson. (See note on page 2 in the introduction pages.)

1. Jairus, the town leader, has laid it all out before Jesus...In a few words, describe how you think Jairus must be feeling (pg. 124)
2. What was the "fringe" of Jesus' garment and what was its purpose? Share your drawing and anything else you learned from this passage. (pg. 125)
3. Note the woman's response and any observations you made from these verses. (pg. 126)
4. What similarities do you see in the crowd's response and Peter's response earlier in Luke 8:45? (pg. 127)
5. Share other examples of power vs authority. (pg. 129)
6. Were all who were selected as disciples also named as apostles? (pg. 130)
7. What does Jesus say about the past (the story of manna) and who He is? (pg. 134)
8. What three things does Jesus say in verse 23 must be done by the true follower? Share all three of your answers and any other observations you made. (pg. 136) and which one of the above feels most natural to you to do? Which feels most challenging? Why? (pg. 137)
9. "There are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God" who do you think He was referring to? Why?
10. After reading Hebrews 3:3-6: What does this say about Jesus as compared to Moses? (pg. 141)
11. Peter is still sharing his grand plan when...Share your description. (pg 141)
12. Identify the teachings that John is violating. (pg 148)
13. What does it show of James and John growth as disciples that they would even suggest that they could call down fire? (pg. 151)
14. What does this say to you about the cost of following Jesus? Share all three responses (pg. 154)

Teaching Notes - Review of Lesson Four

The Cost of Discipleship

Luke 8:40-9:62

Teaching Notes - Review of Lesson Four

The Cost of Discipleship

Luke 8:40-9:62

— Day One —

Read and take notes through Luke 10:1-11:36
Today is an Active Reading Day

... Open with Prayer ...

Please note: This lesson (Lesson Five "True and Ready") will be available in two parts. The first part is days one through seven. The second part will be available by Sunday, April 2. You can pick it up at church or contact Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com to make other arrangements.

— Day Two —

Luke 10:1-20

... Open with Prayer ...

→ **Read Luke 10:1-20 before beginning today's study.** Reminder: This study is based on the ESV translation

Luke 10:1-12

1. Summarize this passage:

Note any similarities to Luke 9:1-6

2. How many did Jesus send out? _____ You'll notice a footnote in your Bible clarifying that some manuscripts have "seventy." (The New American Standard and King James are among the few that say 70) The science of deciding which manuscripts to go by is called "textual criticism." By use of this science, most translators have decided on seventy-two.
 3. ***Why do you think Jesus sent the disciples in pairs? Why not in threes? Why not one by one? Is there any biblical precedence for partners?

 4. **Read Acts 1:15-26** After Judas' betrayal and subsequent suicide, Peter leads the decision-making process to find whom? _____ What does he cite as a qualification for that role? (v21-22) _____
List the names of the men who were put forward: _____
Who was chosen? _____
 5. Where did He send the disciples? (v1) _____
-

What is Jesus' plan? _____

Why send them to where He was about to go?

6. **Luke 10:2** What metaphor does Jesus use to describe where Jesus is sending these apostles?

_____ Before you can harvest, what needs to happen?

Can you harvest a plant you just planted in the ground? _____ Why not?

A little web search will tell you that the shortest time from seed to harvest for the average grain harvest (wheat, rye, barley, etc.) is 120 days – 4 months. In fact, read Jesus' words in John 4:35

How does Jesus describe the harvest? _____

Not only is it plentiful, but it's **ready! Woo-Hooo! Go get 'em, boys!**

7. Write Luke 10:2 here:

8. What does Jesus tell them to do in 10:2b? _____

How should they pray? _____

Before telling them how to do anything, before telling them what to expect, He says,

Pray...and pray earnestly!

To Whom are they praying? _____

Ask Him to do what? _____

Luke 10:3

9. They are to be like what animal? _____ amongst _____

*What would lambs need to do in order to survive being around wolves? Consider **Psalm 23** and the fact the Jesus refers to Himself as the Good Shepherd in **John 10**.*

10. Do you think we should be any different as we go out into the world today with the message of Christ? Why or why not?

Luke 10:4

11. ***List the four "no's" in this verse:

1) Carry no _____

2) Carry no _____

3) Carry no _____

4) Greet no _____

Is Jesus opposed to luggage? Shoes? Purses?

- **Read Luke 22:35-36** _____

Was Jesus forbidding us from saying "Hi" on the road? Was He teaching us to avoid greetings?

- **Read 1 Peter 3:8 and Romans 16:16** _____

So, what is the point in this instance of leaving these things and even common courtesy behind? As you answer, consider Jesus' focus, what He's teaching His disciples, what His expectations are, and WHEN this is taking place...

Luke 10:8-12

12. Jesus tells them to do two things in the towns that receive them:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

13. What are they to do/say to the towns that do not receive them?

14. In **Luke 10:9**, what does Jesus instruct the disciples to say on their mission? Underline His words and write them here:

15. Considering the warnings and directions Jesus gives the disciples before they head out, what role does prayer have in their mission?

Read Luke 10:13-16 *Locate these cities on your Bible map.*

16. What is Jesus declaring in verses 13-15?

17. Read Genesis 19 – Why did God condemn Sodom _____

18. Read Ezekiel 28 – Why did God condemn Tyre and Sidon? _____

19. Why is Jesus warning Chorazin, Bethsaida, and even His home-base town - Capernaum?

Sodom, Tyre, and Sidon rebelled against God in their evil behavior, pride, and total rejection of God's commands. The sin of Sodom is so infamous that the vile act of "sodomy" is named after this very city.

20. How, in your understanding does the sin of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum compare to the sins committed by these ancient cities?

Is Jesus condemning Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum for the same vile behaviors? _____

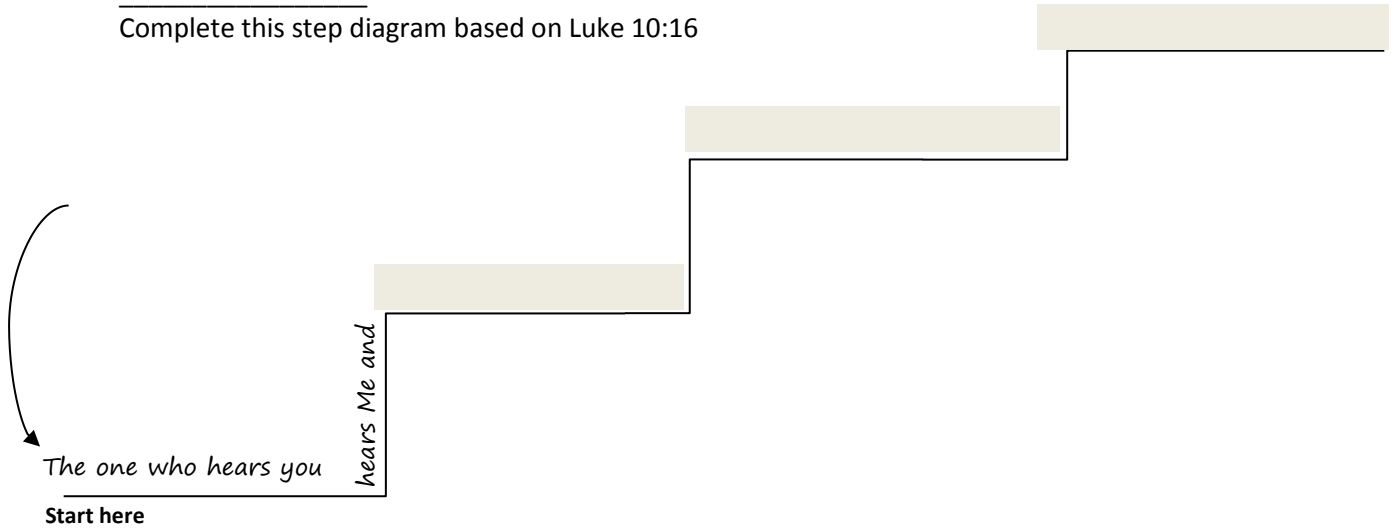
21. Jesus is making an important statement here that we'd be wise to note. It's easy for us to rank sins. Sodom? Horrible! What vile behavior! Tyre and Sidon? Awful! Total pride and willful rejection of God. "I'd never do that!" But these local towns where Jesus had ministered and where his disciples were traveling through receive a powerful and harsh condemnation from Jesus – even more harsh than the other more infamous cities. Why?

22. Read **John 1:11-13** and **John 3:16-21** John's gospel give us more understanding of this message. What will happen to those who reject Jesus?

Read Luke 10:16

23. Recall our previous lesson from Luke 9:48 – Jesus connects the receiving of a child to the receiving of Himself which is receiving God. Jesus now gives a message of solidarity with Himself and His

Complete this step diagram based on Luke 10:16



Read Luke 10:17-20

- 24. How do the seventy-two return? _____
- 25. What experiences do they relate? _____
- 26. What are Jesus’ responses? Write His words then summarize them below each line:
 - v. 18 _____
 - v. 19 _____
 - v. 20 _____

Read 1 Corinthians 15:57-58 and write it here:

...In Closing...

Consider Jesus’ warnings again against Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum. Jesus makes no soft words here. Reject Me? Be prepared for severe judgement. But consider also the returning disciples and their report of astounding victory...while Jesus acknowledges this victory, He continues to redirect the disciples away from focusing on the amazing victories in this kingdom on earth and toward their ultimate victory – that their names are written in heaven. Taking this truth away with us today is most important. Satan is real. Satan has a mission. Satan’s mission will NOT succeed. Judgement is coming. We can overcome. As small as we may feel our power is, in Christ ours is the power of Christ! Never forget that. Satan certainly has not. Jesus says that He “saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.” Walk boldly, my friend. Serve in strength. Be steadfast. Be confident in the name of Jesus! Our focus is eternal.

A note on tomorrow’s study. Please consider completing Day Three in *two portions*. Read the first portion in the morning, first thing before you begin your day and the second portion in the evening as you wind your day down. I wrote Day Three to be devotional in its approach. I hope you’ll be able to read it in two sittings.

— Day Three —

Luke 10:21-42, Deuteronomy 6:4-5, and Psalm 73:23-28

... Open with Prayer ...

A Note on today's study – please consider reading today's study in two portions. Read the first portion in the morning, first thing before you begin your day and the second portion in the evening as you wind your day down.

...Good Morning...Part One...

***Read Psalm 73:23-28

Draw a picture of the image that comes to your mind as you read...
or simply write the phrase that speaks to your heart this morning:

Read Luke 10:21-24

1. How would you describe Jesus' emotional tone in verse 21? _____
2. Why? What has just happened? (review yesterday's verses if needed)
|
3. Luke records that Jesus rejoices in the _____
4. Here is another of Jesus' recorded prayers.
Jesus refers to God as: _____ as well as: _____
5. Who do you think Jesus is referring to when He says "wise and understanding?"
|
6. Who do you think Jesus is referring to when He says, "little children?"
|
7. What characteristic or behavior in the disciples do you think Jesus is seeing to cause Him to refer to them as "little children?"
|
8. Compare this verse (Luke 10:21) with Luke 9:48 and Luke 10:16. What are you noticing as a pattern in Jesus' expectations for those who would claim to follow Him?
|

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

9. What does this say about foolishness and wisdom?

10. How do people come to know the Son? (Luke 10:22) _____

11. What a special blessing Jesus gives the disciples. What does He say in verses 23-24?

Read Luke 10:25-37

Do you recall from the previous verses the “wise and understanding?” Let’s read an account about how these “wise” behave. Note how Jesus teaches a powerful point that should redirect our hearts today as much as it must have redirected the hearts of those who humbly listened to Him in those days.

12. Who (specifically) stands up and addresses Jesus? _____

As an expert, he would have been well-versed the Law of Moses – the Torah.

13. What does he ask Jesus? _____

Great question! We should all ask it...and we’ll read of others who also ask. It speaks of our openness to the reality of the afterlife. God has “set eternity in our hearts” (Ecc 3:11). We have a sense that we were meant for something beyond this life...and indeed, we are!!

14. However, what is your sense of this man’s tone or motivation in asking Jesus this question? (v. 25)

In fact, the Greek word here translated “put Him to the **test**” is ἐκπειράζων (“ekperazon”).

15. Read Luke 4:12, and write it here:

Same Greek word. Interesting, right? Who tests Jesus? _____

16. So, Jesus turns the question right back to this lawyer who must have felt all eyes on him. Jesus asks two questions. Write them here:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Knowing the law vs interpreting it...this lawyer knows the law, but as we’ll see, he’s failed to interpret and apply it correctly.

17. How does the lawyer answer Jesus question?

By summing up the law (recall from our previous lesson there were 613 laws) in this way Jesus gives Him approval.

18. The answer he gives is from Deuteronomy 6:4 plus Leviticus 19:18b. Mark both verses along with the Luke verse in your Bible, and write Deuteronomy 6:4 here:

Underline and highlight the first word from Deuteronomy. The first word you underlined “Hear” is the Hebrew word שָׁמַע (“shema”) and means much more than “hear.” It means “listen, hear, and do.” We’ll close with more on this at the end of the lesson today.

...Good Evening...Part Two...

19. **Luke 10:29** Then the lawyer digs in, and you can almost see him turning with a knowing glance to those around him as he asks the next question. What does he ask and what was his obvious motive now?

20. Does he seem to understand the implications of his own words from before? How can you tell?

21. The lawyer has asked two questions. Which question is Jesus answering by way of parable beginning in Luke 10:30? _____

22. Describe each person, what happens to them, or what they do/don't do:

The man: _____

The priest: _____

The Levite: _____

The Samaritan: _____

*To what lengths does Jesus go in His parable to demonstrate the **character of this Samaritan**? What details does He include that show the kind of man he was?*

Both the priest and the Levite were too busy on the road to wherever they were headed, too occupied with the duties of their position to stop and actually show that they could live out the Shema.

*Note that the two who pass by the man who "lay half dead" were clerical. Priests were descendants of Moses' brother Aaron who had responsibilities in the temple, and Levites were descendants of Jacob's son Levi, who worked in the temple with the priests. If I were to begin the cliché joke: "A priest, a rabbi, and a _____ walked in to a bar." You'd probably be able to fill in the blank with "minister." It's so familiar, it's expected, right? Well, to the Jewish ears, a tale about a bad guy priest and a bad guy Levite would surely have been followed up with some other clergy being exposed as just another bad guy. The crowd was probably enjoying the dig while the lawyer squirmed a bit in anticipation. Would Jesus name a bad guy lawyer next? Or would he name a good guy Israelite layman to come along and finally save this poor man? Everyone must have been quite shocked to hear **none of the above!** No one could have expected who Jesus mentions as the hero of the day!*

23. Let's pause to recall where earlier in Luke have we encountered a Samaritan? What was that "encounter" like? (Hint: Luke 9:51-56)

24. So, to the shock and maybe even irritation of all, the hero of Jesus' parable is none other than a man from _____ (Hence the name 'Good Samaritan')

25. ***In short, what is Jesus' answer to the man's question?

26. What is Jesus' follow-up command to this lawyer? " _____ "

27. Read Micah 6:8 and write it here:

This is among my favorite verses! In fact, if you were to ask me what verses I live by I'd say, the Shema-Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Micah 6:8.

Read Luke 10:38-42

I suppose you don't need a sibling to truly relate to Martha here, but if you do, then surely you've felt like one or the other before. You've either been the one hustling about getting it all done, or the one soaking in the moment in the midst of the busyness. And, let's just say it right here: this account is not a blanket indictment of busyness or an endorsement of sitting around. Let's read the Word and understand what we are to grasp from this account.

28. Note that this story is unique to Luke's gospel and is not included in chronological order. Find Bethany on your map and you'll see why. Where is Bethany in relation to Jerusalem? Are they near Jerusalem yet? _____ They will be as we continue, but at this time, they are still further north near Capernaum.

Read John 11:1-5

29. ***What details can you gather from John and Luke about Martha and Mary?

How does Jesus feel about these two women? _____

30. Describe the scene with Martha and Mary:

31. What question does Martha ask? _____

32. What does her question imply about her...

- Priorities: _____
- Expectations: _____
- What she thinks of Jesus: _____

33. What does Jesus say in response? Write His complete answer from the English Standard Version here: (Luke 10:41-42)

Underline the words "anxious" and "troubled"

34. Does Jesus scold her for her work? _____ What does He point out?

35. How is Jesus' focus similar with Martha as it was to the lawyer in Luke 10:36-37?

Speaking Martha's name twice is a tender and heartfelt response, and no surprise. As you read in John 11, Jesus cared for Martha. When you care for someone you want them to "get it." You want them to really understand, right?

36. ***It's not that walking on a road from here to there is wrong and it's not that working to prepare a meal is wrong...neither the clergy from the Good Samaritan parable nor Martha in real life are in error for getting the work done. Where then is the error?

37. Mary chose the "good portion." How can you today, do the same? **Read Psalm 73:23-28** to guide you in your response. Consider writing this Psalm down on a card to keep with you. When you feel the busyness of life, any anxiousness, any tendency to worry and spin in your mind about all that you have to do, revisit this Psalm and pray that while you need to do the work of Martha, you can do it with the heart of Mary...worshipful, restful, confident in Christ, and open to hearing His voice teaching you. You can write and illustrate Psalm 73:23-28 here:

...In Closing...



The verses from Deuteronomy that the lawyer recited would have been familiar to all listening. In fact, similar to the way you could probably recite the "Lord's Prayer" because it is so familiar in our culture, Jews of the day were not just familiar with those words, but could have all recited them and perhaps they did right along with him. The same is true among Jews across the world even today. These verses, called "Shema", are the first scriptures a Jewish child learns. They are extremely significant and central to Jewish culture and religion. During

its recitation in the synagogue, Orthodox Jews pronounce each word carefully while covering their eyes with their right hand. Parts of the Shema are written on a scroll and placed inside a mezuzah then attached to the doorpost of the home so it can be touched upon going out and coming home again.

In Hebrew "shema" means more than letting the sounds come through your ears it means: taking heed, being obedient, doing what is asked. Have you ever asked, "Were you listening?" of a child who ignores a request to pick up their room? They heard...they didn't do. In fact, almost every place we see the word "obey" in the Bible, it is translated from the word "shema." By reciting these verses, a Jew would remind himself of his commitment to love God, follow God and do His will.

This gives us a clue of why Jesus says, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" He is calling us to put his words into action, not just listen. He wants us to be doers of the word, and not hearers only. (James 1:22) We must understand that we have not truly put what we have heard into our hearts until it changes our lives as well.

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל, יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, יְיָ אֶחָד.

Shema Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai echad.

— Day Four —

Luke 11:1-13 and Matthew 6:5-13

... Open with Prayer ...

Pray the words of Matthew 6:5-13 – “The Lord’s Prayer” before you begin today.

Libraries could be filled with the books that have been written on these verses that we’ll be covering in these few pages. Today, as you read, please prayerfully enter in to your time and ask the Father to reveal anew the truths from these verses covering the beautiful Lord’s Prayer and further teachings on prayer. I have written an in depth study of this passage for those who would like to dig deeper. Email me at Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com for the study.

Teach us to pray...

Read Luke 11:1

1. ***What do the disciples ask Jesus? _____
2. ***Why? What information from the verse gives you an understanding as to their past experience and current motivation to learn?

Our Father in heaven...

Read Matthew 6:9 and Luke 11:2

3. To whom are we to address our prayers? _____

I often stop and think of not only how Scripture is worded, but how it is NOT worded. Think of it: The disciples said, “Teach us to pray!” and Jesus could have said, “Pray like this, ‘Father in heaven...’” or “**Dear** Father, in heaven...” But there in the moment on that day with His disciples He reminded them all and even you and I today, of **our** Father. God wants to relate to us in community, to be together not only in person through His Son, but through corporate and individual prayer.

Read Hebrews 4:14-16

4. How can we come before God? _____

Read Romans 8:14-17 and Galatians 4:6-7

5. **Who** we can come to God as? _____

Read Ephesians 2:1-3

6. Before coming to Christ what were we children of? _____ No longer!

Aren’t we all “children of God?” I have heard this said by Christians and non-Christians alike - that we are all God’s children. Sister, this is not the case. Yes, by virtue of being His creation as it says in Malachi 2:10, “Do we not all have one Father? Did not one God create us? Why do we profane the covenant of our ancestors by being unfaithful to one another?” We are all from the one God who created us. But let us be clear, unless you have submitted to the Fatherhood of God, unless you are “in Christ” you are not part of His family.

Hallowed be Your name...

Read Matthew 6:9 and Luke 11:2

7. Hallowed is a word we've lost the meaning and use of in our modern language but there really is no more clear way to express the idea. Write a definition of "hallowed" from your dictionary.

Read Exodus 3:15

8. When God first revealed His name, to whom did He reveal it? _____
9. What was the name? _____

Read Psalm 148:11-38

10. To whom is God's name important? _____

Scripture addresses God by no less than 900 names. 900! When you pray, "hallowed be your name" which name are you "hallowing?" How exactly do we "hallow" a name? Let's be clear, this is not an exercise in trivial concepts. The name of God and our use of it is important. Important enough to make the Top Ten. Read on...

Read Exodus 20:7

11. Right up there with murdering, adultery and coveting, what does God say about His name?

When Jesus instructed us to make His name holy – or as the more poetic wording reads, "Hallowed be His name" – this was making a statement about God, but it was also a call to action. How can we "make holy His name" if we're using it casually, or "in vain?" We cannot. Are you in the habit of saying "Oh, my God!" or "Oh God!" Can I challenge you today, sister, to change your words along with your mindset? Consider that using God's name in a casual exclamation like this is actually taking His name in vain and is the opposite of making His name holy.

Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...

Luke 11:2 and Matthew 6:10

12. What was Jesus declared purpose? (Luke 4:43) _____

Is there any more hope-giving idea than to pray that God's kingdom would come?

"Your kingdom come..." then has two purposes. Since Jesus brought the kingdom of God it was as close to the disciples as Jesus was Himself, and yet, God's kingdom is also yet to come. Our prayer then is to pray for both.

Read Luke 6:46

13. What did Jesus admonish true disciples to do? _____

This is praying "God's will be done." It's not as much that we are praying with an outward focus that God's will be done out there in the big wide world...but where?

14. Where should we pray that God's will be done? _____

To know God's will one must seek the heart of God. In the verses immediately after the Lord's Prayer in Jesus reminds us to do this very thing especially as it relates to anxiety. Are you worried? Do you wrestle with tomorrow and what is to come? How can you pray, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." in one breath and continue to speak of our anxieties about tomorrow with the other?

Read Matthew 6:25-34

15. ***What does this tell you about worry?

16. What did Jesus admonish Martha about in Luke 10:41? _____

One thing is certain: worrying is not in God's will for you! Worry robs our hope!

Give us each day our daily bread...

17. In the phrases up to this point, we have been focused on the Father.

Our _____ in heaven

May _____ be glorified

May _____ come

May _____ be done.

Now we shift. But only after we've set the tone – prayer is first about God: coming to Him for His glory, His kingdom, His will. God First, God some more, More God, and more still...then bread. Me and my needs come only after God gets His due and my heart and mind are properly focused on His will – not mine.

The Hebrew words here say, “give us our bread תָּמִיד (tamid).” Tamid means “continual/daily.” There is no direct Greek equivalent to this word. So, when the words of Jesus recorded by Matthew and Luke were written into the Greek they actually ***invented a word*** to try to come close to conveying its meaning! I think that's pretty exciting! The meaning of tamid is translated into the Greek as: ἐπιούσιος (epiousios) which is only used two times in the entire Bible – both in the “Lord's Prayer.”

18. What does it mean to you to get only what you need “daily/continually?”

Are you satisfied with that? Are you satisfied getting the basics of what you need on a daily and continual basis? I have noticed that this truth hard to find among many of the most popular TV preachers of our day. Many preach a “prosperity” gospel when they should be preaching a “provisional” gospel. We have been instructed by Jesus to pray for our bread of provision not of prosperity.

Forgive us our sins...and lead us not...

19. What has Jesus already taught regarding the importance of forgiveness? (Luke 6:37)

So, here again is the reminder even in praying that our hearts are right with God and with one another.

20. **Read James 1:13** Does God lead us into temptation? _____ Explain:

21. Jesus experienced first-hand the difficulties of temptation at whose hand? _____ (Luke 4:2) His desire in teaching us to pray this way is that we would not be tempted in this difficult way.

22. **Read 1 Corinthians 10:13** What are we assured of?

Read Luke 11:5-13

23. This is a bit of a humorous parable, isn't it? What does this parable teach about...

- God's nature
|
- Our approach to God
|
- What we can expect from God
|

...In Closing...

As you close our time in study today, let this be your fervent prayer. Pray the Lord's Prayer today and as you pray be mindful of the richness of the meaning that you have studied.

In Christ, the hope of the Gospel is made true. In Christ we are brought into the family. God is now our Father.

We are His children.

In Christ, everything changes...

Our past – Cleaned.

Our present – Connected.

Our future – Certain.

When Jesus taught His disciples to pray He was in the very opening words reminding them of the togetherness God has provided for us and reminding us of that open relationship – the tender and loving one the Father desires to have with His children. The beauty of the first words of Christ's prayer is a simple yet powerful reminder that you are a child of God and you have access to God just like a child does to her Father.

And this should bring you hope too!

Know that you are loved. You have a Father in Heaven who desires relationship with you. Seek Him today. Thank Him today. Surrender your cares and your doubts to Him and let Him Father you.

Pray the Lord's prayer with a renewed sense hope because of your relationship to God as your Father.

Commit today to praying more and more in accordance with the will of God and with the passion and persistence of the "knocking neighbor."

— Day Five —

Luke 11:14-28

... Open with Prayer ...

Read Luke 11:14-23

Yesterday's passage closed with a man who wouldn't keep quiet, today's opens with a man who cannot speak at all. This is an interesting account also recorded by Matthew (9:32-24; 12:22-37) and Mark (3:20-30). It points out some of the absurdity that Jesus dealt with from among the religious leaders. You've heard the saying, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em".... In Jesus' case it might be better said, "If you *won't* join 'em, beat 'em...or try to" The Pharisees are literally hell-bent on NOT joining Jesus and in keeping as many as they can from joining Him. But, Jesus continues to heal, teach, and cast out demons on His continued mission to "preach the good news of the kingdom of God", and increasingly we are reading of the opposition He faces.

1. What does Jesus do? _____
2. The Pharisees (Matthew 9:34) don't deny the miracle, instead, what do they accuse Jesus of doing?

This name is an ancient name for Satan from the Aramaic meaning "Lord of the Flies." The Israelites then changed the name to mock this false god and called Beelzebul the "lord of the dunghill."

3. **Read Matthew 12:22-32** What is the unforgiveable sin? _____
I meet with women who question if they or someone they love has committed the "unforgiveable sin." This is a concept that has been poorly taught in the church or there wouldn't be so many who do not understand. Let's be certain here what God's Word says.
4. According to this passage, is the unforgiveable sin a sin committed by a follower of Jesus (a Christian)? Why or why not?

5. What if you were not sure? In order to experience God's peace, we must come to Him, trusting His promises. **Read Isaiah 1:18** and write it here:

6. What does this say about how God wants to relate to you?

7. What if you're still not sure? **Read 1 John 1:9** and write it here:

Jesus Himself assures us, "Whoever comes to me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Our God is a compassionate and merciful God. He desires that no one should be lost, but that all should come to salvation through repentance and personal faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord (2 Peter 3:9; Acts 2:21).

8. How had the Pharisees committed the unforgiveable sin?

9. Jesus had just performed a miraculous sign by doing what? _____
10. Then the crowds tested him by seeking what? _____
Do you see the problem? He'd just delivered this demoniac (a miraculous sign) and then they demand what? A miraculous sign.
11. Why is it considered "testing" (akin to what Satan does back in Luke 4) when they do it but... Read Luke 7:19. What does John ask? _____
12. How does Jesus answer? _____
13. How is John's asking different from the crowds demands? (Hint: Luke 1:51, 2:35, 5:22, 6:8, 11:17)

14. What does Jesus give them instead? (Luke 11:17-23) _____
15. ***Compare Jesus' statement in Luke 11:23 with His statement in Luke 9:50. How are they similar/different?

16. ***What is the point Jesus is making?

17. **Luke 11:20a** says that Jesus does His miracles by whose power? _____ Read **Exodus 8:19**
What did the Egyptian magicians say about the power they saw in the plague?

18. ...and what does Jesus say that this proves? (Luke 11:20b) _____
19. There is no neutral place - no Switzerland – when it comes to following Jesus.
You're either for Him or you're _____
You either gather or you _____
20. Where do you see the Pharisees aligning? _____
21. Why do you think this is so?

Read Luke 11:24-26

Jesus illustrates the obvious: You cannot remain neutral.

22. What happens to the man after he's been cleaned of a demon in Jesus' illustration?

23. What happens when the demon returns? What does it find? (v25)

24. Why do you think this demon and seven more can come in?

Read Ephesians 6:10-13

25. What do we battle against?

26. What can we do to remain strong?

Read Luke 11:27-28

27. What does this woman shout to Jesus?

She is, of course, referring to Mary. This is the first we've heard Mary referenced in the gospel since . Surely Mary deserves a unique place of honor, right?

28. How does Jesus respond?

29. **Read Luke 1:48** what does Mary say about herself?

30. Do you think Mary would have been hurt to hear Jesus' response? Why or why not?

31. Where earlier in Luke has Jesus said something similar? What is Jesus' constant message?

...In Closing...

"I just don't need to choose sides." This may be a fine approach if you're in between friends arguing about best baseball teams, flavors of ice cream, or how the toilet paper should roll (over, by the way), but Jesus doesn't leave neutrality as an option for us. Today, if you are for Jesus, be for Him! If you're not clearly with Him, you're well, you know the answer! My friend, in our day it seems to me that the unpardonable sin is being firm on whose "side" you're on when it comes to spiritual matters. People just want to "get along." Drive home from work and you'll see at least one bumper sticker proclaiming, "COEXIST" with the letters in the word represented by all religions of the world from Islam to Christianity. While coexisting in its basic understanding is a decent ideal - surely we can live together with those we have worldview differences - the post-modern motto of coexisting is not merely getting along. It's the erroneous worldview that all religious or lifestyle views are equal. Jesus definitely didn't teach his disciples by this motto. Ask the Pharisees. There's no room for a neutral approach. Either you're for Jesus or you're against Him. Joshua said it better than I, "...choose this day whom you will serve...as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (Joshua 24:15)

- Day Six -

Luke 11:29-36

... Open with Prayer ...

1. What do you consider to be truly evil or truly wicked? If you had to come up with five examples of evil behaviors, could you? Maybe you're thinking of infamous criminals from across the centuries or evil men of our day. Either way, take a moment to write down what you consider to be the most evil behaviors you can think of:
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
 - 5) _____
2. How about moral? What are your top five examples of wonderful moral behaviors? Maybe the face of a hero of the faith comes to mind or a world changer from history? Either way, write down what would make your list if you had to list only five top moral behaviors:
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
 - 5) _____
3. ***What has been the reaction to Jesus' ministry up until now? List some of the ways people have responded to Him – negatively, positively, indifferently, or a mix:

<u>Person/People</u>	<u>Reference</u> (chapter & verse)	<u>Response</u>
1) <i>People at the temple</i>	<i>Luke 4:22</i>	<i>All spoke well of Him</i>
2) _____	_____	_____
3) _____	_____	_____
4) _____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____	_____

4. From yesterday's passage, what did the Pharisees accuse Jesus of doing and what did the "others" want him to do? (Luke 11:15-16)
Pharisees: _____
Others: _____
5. **Luke 11:29** –
 - Jesus call them a/an: _____
 - Because they: _____

6. Review your answer to question #1. On your list of top five did “seek for a sign” make your top five?

Why? _____

➤ Will a sign be given? _____ Except: _____

7. Luke 11:30

To whom was Jonah a sign? _____ (Find Nineveh on your map.)

To whom will Jesus be a sign? _____

8. Read Matthew 12:38-40 What is the sign of Jonah?

9. What is Jesus predicting by saying this? (Luke 9:21-22)

Let’s review the account of Jonah. It is a very short book in your Bible. You can read the four chapters or read the summary here:

“The book of Jonah is Narrative History and a Prophetic Oracle. The prophet Jonah wrote it approximately 785-760 B.C. before Assyria conquered Israel’s Northern Kingdom. Key personalities include Jonah, the captain and the ship’s crew and the people of Nineveh.

The purpose of this book is to show that God is a merciful and gracious God. Although the wicked city of Nineveh deserved to be crushed immediately, God was patient towards them. A reluctant prophet, Jonah originally ran from God before delivering a message of repentance to the nation of Nineveh.

- *In chapter 1, God directed Jonah to go to Nineveh however; Jonah disobeyed, boarded a ship and headed for Tarshish. The sailors of the ship became concerned because of the great storm that brewed and Jonah explained that God was bringing judgment upon him. The sailors threw him into the sea where he was swallowed by an enormous fish. “And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights” (1:17).*

- *Chapter 2-3, After God had the fish cough him up, three days later; Jonah obeyed God and went to Nineveh to fulfill his mission. Jonah preached a message of repentance and to his surprise, the sinful city repented. “Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them” (3:5).*

- *In chapter 4, God deals with Jonah and teaches him about His love and compassion.*

(www.biblehub.com/summary/jonah/)

10. How is Jesus going to fulfill the “sign of Jonah?”

11. Luke 11:31 and 1 Kings 10:1-13

➤ Who was the Queen of the South? _____

➤ Was she from a god-fearing land or a pagan land? _____

➤ Who does she come to hear? _____

➤ Why? _____

➤ How does she respond to what she hears?

➤ What will she do at the judgement?

12. Luke 11:32

➤ Who were the men of Nineveh? _____

➤ Were they god-fearing or pagan? _____

- Who do they hear from? _____
- Why? (Jonah 3:4) _____
- How do they respond to what they hear? (Jonah 3:5) _____
- What will they do at the judgement? _____

13. **Luke 11:29-30**

- Who were among the crowds of people “increasing” (Luke 11:29, Matthew 9:34) _____
- Were they god-fearing or pagan? _____
- Who do they hear from? _____
- Why? (Luke 4:43) _____
- How do the religious leaders respond to what they hear? (Luke 11:15-16) _____
- What will happen to them at the judgement? _____

So, Jesus is calling this generation out! He compares them to a pagan queen and a vile pagan nation...both of whom acknowledge God! How much more should they, who knew the law, had the prophets, and were face-to-face with Jesus Himself, repent and acknowledge Him?

14. Considering their likely view of themselves, do you think they – the crowd in general AND the religious leaders in particular - were shocked by this comparison? Why? Why not? Use **Luke 7:36-50** and **Luke 5:27-32** to give you some perspective.

|

Jesus shifts from His warning words to a teaching metaphor. The people that Jesus crowding around Jesus would have been very familiar with the Psalms. They sang from them, heard them read aloud, had them memorized. Read **Psalms 90:8** before continuing and consider its truth in light of what Jesus has been saying and what He is about to say...

15. **Luke 11:33** Where does the light go? _____
16. Why does a lamp get put on a stand instead of under a basket?

(Be careful...write exactly and only what the verse says....word. for. Word.)

17. **Luke 11:34** Draw a picture or explain with words what this verse is saying:

|

18. **Luke 11:35** Who do you think Jesus is directing this warning to about the “light in you being darkness?”

|

19. ***Read and select one of the following verses to meditate on...create an Instagram or Facebook post...write it out in with calligraphy and art...memorize it...share it...I'd love to see any and all of your illustrations from this lesson! Please text or email me. Jennifer@LaMiradaChurch.com 562.755.4964
- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Psalm 18:28 | Psalm 119:130 |
| Psalm 27:1 | Psalm 139:11-12 |
| Proverbs 6:23 | Proverbs 13:9 |

Use the next page to write and draw out your verse illustration. →

20. ***Go back to **Luke 11:33** and question #16...Think about it again. When you walk into a room, what do you look at?... The room and what you came in to find or do? ...or the light?

If you're like me, you're hoping to even remember why you came into the room to begin with! And once you're there, surely you don't look at the light! No, you are looking around and thankful that you didn't forget what you came in for and thankful for...the light. The light is what enables you to see. The light is what chases the shadows away. Once the light is on, you no longer are concerned with the darkness, why? It's. Gone.

21. **Luke 11:33** Jesus says, "No one after lighting a lamp puts in in a cellar or under a basket, but on a stand, so that those who enter may see the *room*..." NO! That's not what it says! Read it again from your Bible. "...that those who enter may see the _____." Double underline and highlight that! The Light! ... Who does that? No one. No one comes into a room and looks at the light. They look at what the light has illuminated. Jesus is saying something groundbreaking here...Look. At. Me. It is by Me that you'll be able to see what is the "good portion" what is "needed" what will "not be taken away." Without Jesus, you're busy in your room.

...In Closing...

You're getting stuff done – Hi, Martha.

You're saying all the right things - Hello, Pharisee.

You know the right answers – Hey there, Sadducee.

– but you are missing the point.

You are like the man whose unclean spirit came out of him and instead of bringing in the Light, he just swept up the rooms of his life and heart, got it all in order himself, and then what? Seven more evil demons came right on in. Darkness.

Today, instead of looking at the rooms in your house...look at the Light. The Light that shines into your heart. Confess your tendency to fix it yourself. Confess your need for Jesus to shine into the deepest parts of your life today and reveal what needs to go...and let Him take it from there.

The world has a message: You're enough. You're trying your best. You can do this. It's all going to work out.

Religion has a message too: Obey these rules. Be this person. Try hard enough and it might work out.

Jesus has a radically different message: I'm enough. You're not. I can do this. You cannot. I will do this. Look to Me. I will bring it all together.

Give it to Jesus today.



Complete Day Seven – Active Reading on the net page

— Day Seven —

Read and take notes through Luke 11:37-12:59

Today is an Active Reading Day

... Open with Prayer ...

— Something to Think About —

Growing up we heard the cultural advice that you should never talk around the dinner table about “religion or politics.” Why? These are both polarizing topics aren’t they? People can get uncomfortable when either of these topics gets started, right? But, why? Well, how you think on these topics speaks about the core of who you are as a person, and it can feel very personal – even emotional. Your religious views and your political views didn’t come from thin air. You think the way you do about these topics because of your worldview...and that didn’t come from thin air either.

Take a minute to answer the following:

1. Do you believe that God exists? YES NO
2. Do you believe He’s involved in lives? YES NO
3. Does He have expectations for right and wrong? YES NO
4. Does He have outcomes for those who do or don’t meet His expectations? YES NO

If you answered “yes” to any of the above, then you have a worldview with its foundation on God and His expectations. If you answered “no” to any of the above, then you have a worldview that is NOT based on God. We can go into further detail to confirm just how you think He revealed His expectations, but let’s move forward now with two assumptions:

- 1) God revealed His expectations through His Son, Jesus Christ.
- 2) God revealed His expectations through His Word, contained in the Bible.

So, when people talk (or don’t talk) about their politics and religion, be mindful that their views are rooted in their worldview even if they don’t specifically say it in that way. This is why it can get heated and sensitive when religion or politics come up. These are not just topics to discuss floating out there like thought-bubbles disconnected from us. No, these topics have a string attached to our very heart. Talking about them tugs at that string and can pull out our strongest emotions – anger, passion, fear, joy, etc. But what if what you say you believe doesn’t match up with your worldview?

What would expect to see from that person that said they believed in a God who says to care for widows and orphans?? What would you see from a person who said they believed in a God who expected us to be just? Humble? Sexually pure? Kind? Hard-working? What you say you believe should impact how you live. But, right up there with the “rule” about not talking politics or religion is another rule: Don’t judge me – don’t judge anyone. Why? Because “judging” someone implies that you think they’re not behaving in the way that matches with what they say they believe, and no one likes to be called out.

And on that note, let’s get back to Luke...and Jesus...and breaking these two “rules” in one big conversation – at dinner no less!

— Day Eight —

Luke 11:37-54

... Open with Prayer ...

Read Luke 12:37-38

1. What did Jesus do/not do that astonished the Pharisee? _____

The Greek word for “wash” here isn’t hygienic hand washing like any normal person might do before a meal. It is from the word: ἐβαπτίσθη (ebaptisthē) and means “a ceremonial or ritual washing”. In addition, this wasn’t a law from God – it was a ritual and a “fence around the Law” that the religious leaders had come up with.

Read Matthew 15:1-9

2. What did the Pharisees and scribes accuse Jesus’ disciples of doing?

Was this breaking a tradition or God’s Law? _____

3. How does Jesus counter their accusation? Write His exact words here from **Matthew 15:3**

Read Luke 11:39-41

4. Jesus in turn tells the Pharisees that they are full of _____ and _____

➔ The Greek word translated “greed” (ESV) is ἀρπαγῆς (harpagēs) which means literally “plunder” -
Think: marauders pillaging a helpless village

➔ The word “wickedness” (ESV) is translated from πονηρίας (ponērias)
Think: cruel and depraved men who actually plot evil

If they were astonished at first by Jesus not ritually washing, they were really stunned now. Jesus wastes no time with polite dinner chit-chat. He goes right to the issue and brings up their religious behavior and calls them out for what it is and the effect it is having – they are truly wicked and they are literally plundering, robbing, devastating God’s people with their ritual laws.

5. What does He call the Pharisees in Luke 11:40? _____ This is from the Greek ἄφρων (aphron) which means one who has a failure to see the consequences of his/her actions. And it’s not silly foolishness, it’s **willful** ignorance. You do know better, Jesus is saying, you **choose** to be blind to the issue and to the devastating effect of your behavior.

6. What does He say should be done and what will happen if it is? (v. 41)

I encourage you to look up this verse and compare translations. I use www.BlueLetterBible.com or www.BibleGateway.com to compare translations side by side.

7. ***What character trait is God asking for? (Luke 11:41) _____

Select one of the following to read and meditate upon:

♥ Proverbs 21:2-3l ♥ Psalm 41:1-3

What does this show you about the heart of God? How can you seek to honor God’s heart in this today?

Read Isaiah 29:13

8. What is God saying here about their behavior?

9. Where is their focus? _____

10. Where should it have been? _____

Read 1 Samuel 16:7

11. What does man look on? _____ What does God look on? _____

And so continues Jesus' powerful speech against them all – the Pharisees and their scribes (lawyers). It might be easy to read the following and think of how awful and oppressive these men were, but let us not nod and click our tongues in condemnation toward them while we are blind to our own tendencies to ignore the heart of God's will, or the same "Woes" will apply to us! Read Luke along with Matthew's account and pray for an understanding of the heart of the matter.

12. **Luke 11:42** read with **Matthew 23:23-24**

Woe to you for you _____

What's the heart of the matter that they are missing?

But what should they have done? _____

13. **Luke 11:43** read with **Matthew 23:5-12**

Woe to you for you _____

What's the heart of the matter that they are missing?

But what should they have done? _____

14. **Luke 11:44** read with **Matthew 23:27-28**

Woe to you for you _____

What's the heart of the matter that they are missing?

But what should they have done? _____

Now the lawyers step in. These lawyers were the scribes that worked for the Pharisees.

15. What does the lawyer say in Luke 11:45? "Teacher....you _____ us **also**."

What's your tendency when you're getting called out on bad behavior? Are you likely to check your heart right away and realize you've blown it? Or, like the lawyer, hearing Jesus' condemnation, are you defensive and want it to stop?

Jesus' response is so sharp! Not just "woe to you..." but "Woe to you _____!"

You're not guiltless here! Listen up!

16. **Luke 11:46** read with **Matthew 23:3-4**

Woe to you for you _____

What's the heart of the matter that they are missing?

But what should they have done? _____

17. **Luke 11:47-48** read with **Matthew 23:27-32**

Woe to you for you _____

What's the heart of the matter that they are missing?

But what should they have done? _____

18. **Luke 11:52** read with **Matthew 23:13**

Woe to you for you _____

What's the heart of the matter that they are missing?

But what should they have done? _____

Not sure? Malachi 2:7-8 (esp. verse 8)

** Extra Credit **

Luke 11:49-51

The blood of which prophets will be "charged against this generation"? (v50) _____

Who's going to condemn this generation? (Hint: from a previous chapter in Luke)

1) _____ and 2) _____

Who does Jesus name as the First prophet: _____? and Last prophet: _____?

The first book of the Hebrew Bible is Genesis – Abel is the first prophet.

The last book of the Hebrew Bible is 2 Chronicles – where Zechariah is mentioned in 2 Chron. 24:20-22

Have you ever wondered why the Christian Bibles and Catholic Bibles differ? This is one of the many reasons. The Christian Bible contains the same books as the Hebrew Bible and then adds the New Testament books. The Catholic Bible includes books written after the Hebrew Bible was written. These added books, called the Apocrypha, are not considered by Christians to be the inspired words of God for several important reasons. The fact that Jesus refers to the first and last prophets as Abel and Zechariah is one of those most important reasons, and this is the Scripture where that understanding is found.

Luke 11:53-54

19. What does their response say about the state of their heart?

20. Ideally, having heard Jesus' rebukes, how should the Pharisees and the lawyers have responded?

Not sure? Read Hebrews 3:7-13 and 1 John 1:9

...In Closing...

As Jesus wrapped up His woes the Pharisees and scribes were as hardened as ever – worse, their desire to stop Him intensified. The word translated "catch" in fact is the Greek word θηρεύω (thayroo-o) which means to lay a trap, and it's the only time this word is used in the Bible. They had a unique passion to prey upon Jesus. Rather than letting His word enter and touch their hearts, rather than His words gripping their soul or change their minds, their hearts are like those of the rebellious son in Proverbs: He who is often reprov'd, yet stiffens his neck, will suddenly be broken beyond healing. (Proverbs 29:1) As easy as it is to read of their hardness, we need to humbly submit our heart to God and continue to pray for awareness of our own tendency to become legalistic in how we live our faith in Jesus. In our personal religious lives, we are might be like the Pharisees if we behave with a legalistic heart. For example, the Bible commands us to not get drunk. The Pharisee's heart says to not use wine at all. This way one will never get drunk. The Bible says that we are to avoid all appearance of evil. The Pharisee's heart says don't even play pool because pool halls are bad places. What about movies? The Pharisee's heart says no movies at all because they associate with Hollywood, which is generally regarded as evil. Yet, if we truly want to do the will of God we aren't bound by such legalism; instead we should be guided by the Holy Spirit and in this dynamic way avoid evil behavior.

— Day Nine —

Luke 12:1-12

... Open with Prayer ...

As you read today, look for four warnings. As you note them, come back and write them here:

- 1) _____ (12:2)
- 2) _____ (12:4)
- 3) _____ (12:9)
- 4) _____ (12:11)

Read Luke 12:1-3

1. Can you picture the scene? Compare it to a massive crowd you've seen or experienced before and write some details here:

Interesting Greek word history: In the King James version you'll read the phrase: "when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered ...". I actually prefer this translation over the ESV or NIV which says: "many thousands" of people. Why do I prefer it? Because the Greeks didn't have a word that named any number over 10,000. We do. We say "hundred thousand" or "million." But in the time of this writing, no such word was invented. The word used here is μυριάδων (muriadon). We get the word "myriad" from it. What does that mean? It literally means in this case that there were so many people to count it is beyond our language to state it, so we say: "μυριάδων" – myriad! What does this mean in hard numbers? I know you want to know...it means over 10,000 at the very least, more likely over 20,000. I've lead pretty big groups before – on hiking trails over 100, at a convention over 200 – but over 10,000? That's a massive group of people, folks. So, there were a myriad of people – an "innumerable multitude" – so many people, they couldn't be counted. Are you grasping this?

2. To whom does Jesus turn and address? _____
3. Note the word Jesus uses as He begins His warning: _____ (Mark it in your Bible) The Greek word Jesus uses here is προσέχω (pros-echo) meaning "to set a course *and keep to it.*"
4. What does He warn them against? _____ Why? "It is H_____." You might not be personally experienced with "leavening", but the disciples would have been. Yeast (leavening) was a very common ingredient in their daily life as well as the religious cycle of events in their life. Every Spring, Jews were required to get rid of all yeast in their homes for the observance of Passover and the Days of Unleavened bread that followed.

Read Exodus 12:8 and Deuteronomy 16:3

5. When God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt, among His first directions to them was to, "eat...bread made without yeast." Considering the context again, why no yeast?

In the Exodus verse the word for bread is מצה (matzah – meaning “without sourness”). In Deuteronomy the words for “bread of affliction” are לחם (lechem) and עני (oh-nee). Because the bread was made in haste, with no leavening.

Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

6. There’s that word again... “leaven” – How does Paul (the author of 1 Corinthians) describe the effects of leavening and what does he compare it to?

If you’ve made bread with yeast before, then you know two things:

- 1) Yeast likes to grow and do its yeasty work in the dark
- 2) The bread rises best when it’s covered with a tea towel. ...ok three things
- 3) It doesn’t look like anything is particularly happening for a while.

Think about the power of Jesus’ metaphor then in light of how He had recently been calling out the Pharisees (chapter 11).

7. What is Jesus telling the disciples to be wary of? _____

Read Luke 12:4-7 (Matthew 10:26-33 is a helpful parallel to read along with)

8. What does Jesus call the disciples? _____

Note: this is the only time Jesus refers to them as friends in Luke’s gospel. The Greek word is φίλων (philon) – is also the root of the word meaning “love of a friend.” The city Philadelphia – the city of brotherly love - has the “philon” root word. The apostle John also records Jesus calling His disciples friends.

Read John 15:13-17

9. Why does Jesus call them friends?

10. What is the blessing of being called a friend contingent upon?

Nineteen times Luke writes about fear. Eighteen times it’s either “don’t fear” or pointing out peoples’ unhealthy fears. One time and one time only is fear mentioned in the context of a warning and it’s actually a command to fear! Read on...

11. Who shouldn’t be feared? _____ Why?

12. Who should be feared? _____ Why?

The word translated here “hell” is the Hebrew word “Gehenna” – “It was a place known as Gehenna, i.e. hell (also referred to as the “lake of fire” in Revelation). Gehenna (“hell”), the place of post-resurrection torment (judgment), refers strictly to the everlasting abode of the unredeemed where they experience divine judgment in their individual resurrection-bodies.” (HELPS Word Studies)

13. ***I know people who fear death. Do you? Why or why not? Include Scripture to support your response:

(Read Romans 8:35-39 for additional support.)

Read Proverbs 1:7

14. What is available to those who fear God? K _____, W _____ & I _____
What do fools do? _____

Keep this in mind as think about the difference between the way people respond to Jesus.

Sparrows were little tiny birds that the poor people of Jesus' day caught and ate. They were so cheap you could buy five for two cents. They were cheap food for the poor. Nobody cared about sparrows. The only reason the poor cared about sparrows was they could eat them. If there was anything you'd think God wouldn't bother Himself about it would be sparrows. And if He knows about sparrows, He knows about you.

15. What does Luke 12:7 tell us about our value to God?

|

Read Luke 12:8-12

16. Acknowledge _____ before _____ and He will _____
Deny _____ before _____ and you will be _____ before _____
Speak against the _____ will be _____
Blaspheme the _____ and you will _____ be _____

17. What is Jesus telling the disciples to expect?

|

18. ***How should knowing that Jesus will acknowledge us before God impact the way we engage with those who oppose us and our faith?

|

19. Where else has Jesus admonished His disciples with the words: "do not be anxious"? Do a phrase search and list any you find here:

|

20. ***What does Luke 12:12 tell us about what we have to empower us? How should this make us feel in the face of opposition?

|

...In Closing...

Maybe it's just a Southern California mindset, but I must confess that I tend to see a job that needs to be done, and I consider who I can hire to do it. It's just so easy to hire someone these days. Hiring someone to get odd jobs done is a great convenience of our time, but I think we might transfer this mindset to the gospel message. Who should speak the message of the gospel? A pastor? A missionary? A teacher or professor? Who should speak the message? We should! It's not to be left for the "professionals!" Jesus was speaking to regular folks with little or no training in speaking much less reading and writing! These were fishermen, tax collectors, formally demon possessed, women (uneducated in that culture), and others equally as unqualified by our standards. And yet, these men and women were the ones who did take Christ's words not just to heart but to the streets. They answered the call and in the face of severe oppression they acknowledged Jesus before men. Jesus' promise to the disciples is for you and me today, "do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." (Luke 12:11b-12)

— Day Ten —

Luke 12:13-34

... Open with Prayer ...

“Some men worship rank, some worship heroes, some worship power, some worship God, & over these ideals they dispute & cannot unite--but they all worship money.”

- Mark Twain's Notebook

In this passage, we meet the second of what I'll call the “Worldly-Minded Blurters.” We met the woman from 11:27-28 who blurts out to Jesus, “Blessed is the woman who nursed you!” gets redirected in her worldly thinking about Jesus’ mother - Mary is not to be esteemed above anyone else! The man we’ll meet today gets redirected in his thinking when he blurts out his worldly demands to Jesus. We have a lot to learn from both!

Read Luke 12:13-21

1. What does the man want Jesus to do?
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2. Before giving him an answer, what does Jesus ask the man? Little does he know, that Jesus will indeed be the judge! **The Judge!**
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3. How does Jesus address him? As: _____
The Greek word here is ἀνθρώπος (anthropos) and is the way you would address a stranger or the world (mankind) in general.
It’s the same word in Hebrew used in Micah 6:8 “He has shown you, O man...”
It’s the same word in Greek used in Romans chapter two.
4. **Read Romans 2:1-6** and note any parallel ideas to Jesus’ comments to this man as well as the concept in the parable. Come back here and write any observations you make as you move through this lesson:
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5. How does Jesus address His disciples in Luke 12:4? As: _____
What tone does this address suggest? _____
6. How does Jesus address the woman with the issue of blood in Luke 8:48? As: _____
What tone does this address suggest? _____
7. So, going into the parable, what tone does Jesus take, and why? (Consider Jesus’ mission and what He continually has set before His disciples as their priorities.)
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8. The Jews had specific laws about inheritances. If there was any doubt, the rabbis were the ones to settle disputes like this. What does it say about this man's view of Jesus then if he was asking Him this question?

9. What are Jesus' warning words to this man and all those listening in verse 14? Write both phrases here:

1) _____ from the Greek ὁράω (hor-ah'-o) meaning to see with the mind and perceive.

2) _____ from the Greek φυλάσσω (foo-las'-so) a military term for a guard who is on the look-out and taking guard against an enemy.

➔ **Mark this warning in your Bible** like you did back in Luke 12:1.

So, this man with an eye looking out for his earthly possessions is admonished by Jesus to be on the lookout for something more important...

10. What sin is Jesus warning him against? _____ (v. 15)

Write the definition of covetousness here:

If there truly was a wrong being committed by this man's brother, perhaps Jesus would have spoken differently to him. "You tell your brother to divide up that inheritance right now..." but, no. Jesus goes into a parable about the foolishness of his mindset and what he has his eyes on.

11. What words come to mind to describe the man in the parable?

12. What does Solomon say about this in Ecclesiastes 2:24?

13. Instead of "laying up treasure for himself" Jesus says he should have been what?

14. How can one be "rich toward God" **daily** as well as over time? Give several examples and support them with Scripture:

Focus on each day.

15. **Review Luke 9:23** – How does this "Rich Fool" on the directive for following Jesus?

Deny himself? What has he done instead?

➤

Take up his cross **daily**? What has he done instead?

➤

Follow Jesus? What has he done instead?

➤

When Patti spoke at her father's funeral she shared a touching story about her dad's tenderness toward her and his sacrifice. She didn't measure her father's impact in what he gave to her or any possession they had, she measured his impact in his sacrifice. Her father's name? Ronald Reagan. She eulogized her father, a man who had sat with kings and queens, presidents and statesmen, as a man who was wise and took time to give her hope and peace when her little goldfish died. Her father knew what this barn-building man did not – how to be rich toward God. I'd encourage you to read the full eulogy of Ronald Reagan here: http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/washington/2004-06-12-children-eulogies_x.htm

Read Luke 12:22-34

16. What is Jesus' essential admonition to his disciples? (four words) _____ .
"Don't be anxious? That's easy for you to say, you're [_____]."

Go ahead and fill in the blanks with anything, any reason you think makes it easier for so-and-so not to worry when you clearly have the actual real reasons why worrying is ok for you. Choose from any of these, or add your own:

- ...you're rich ...you're poor ...you're tall ...you're too young
- ...you're married ...you're single ...you're short ...you're too old

Could this list go on? Yes! Ad infinitum!

Go to the self-help section of your local bookstore or online and you'll find that this is a multi-billion dollar industry: anxiety. Go to your druggist and you'll find that anti-anxiety meds are among the most prescribed. If that isn't disturbing enough, the fastest growing age group being prescribed anxiety or depression meds is... Preschoolers. That's a fact. Thousands of young children (0-3years old) are being treated by doctors with powerful psychiatric drugs, including Xanax, Atavan, Prozac, Zoloft, Paxil and others.

<https://www.hop-law.com/prescriptions-anxiety-depression-adhd-drugs-common-young-children-new-study-finds/>

17. What sin is Jesus warning against? _____ (12:22)

Write the definition of worry/anxiousness here:

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18. Contrast the sin of covetousness/greed with the sin of worry/anxiety:

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Here's how I'd sum it up:

- *Covetousness is wanting more (money, time, friends, skills, opportunity, etc.) than you have.*
- *Anxiety is worrying you won't have enough (money, time, friends, skills, opportunity, etc.)*

Can you see how greed leads to anxiety?

19. Make a list of the "nots" Jesus gives in Luke 12:22-34 and connect them with the "insteads" Jesus gives. Some are simply stated, others are lengthy. Sum them up in your own words here:

- Do not be A _____ Why? _____
Instead: _____ (v22-28)
- Do not S _____ Why? _____
Instead: _____ (v29-31)
- Do not be F _____ Why _____
Instead: _____ (v32-34)

We all have our natural tendencies. Maybe you see in yourself a tendency toward one of these over the other? A tendency to be anxious about your life? A tendency to seek after (set your heart on) worldly things? A tendency to be fearful?....

20. All in all they are all about what? (Hint: last two words of verse 28) _____

21. What was the "Rich Fool's" basic sin issue? Not the sin present – covetousness, but the lack he had: (Hint: last four words of Luke 12:21) _____
He lacked richness toward God. He lacked bigness, "abundantness", let-me-give-it-to-God-edness!
What did he have? Smallness, scarceness, let-me-keep-it-for-myselfedness!
And what does that lead to???ANXIETY!

22. List as many phrases or words from Luke 12:22-34 that reveal God's tender, merciful, kind, abundant nature towards you today:

Circle or highlight the ones you needed to read most today.

...In Closing...

My friend, you don't have an anxiety issue. Anxiety is the result. Not the cause. You have a lack of faith issue. You have a "smallness toward God" issue. You have a poorness toward God issue. You lack faith.

Yes, but I do trust God.

Nope. You don't. Not really. Not fully.

Something is holding you back. Fear? Pain? Guilt? Possessions? People?

I don't know what it is...but go to the cross. Take it all there...to the cross. Lay it all down. Daily.

Deny yourself - daily, pick up your cross - daily, and follow Him again and again...His mercies are new every morning. Why? Because we need them! We need His fresh mercy because we have fresh worry.

Silly us. Oh, us of little faith.

Let His mercy cover you. Let His grace free you. Let His love surround you. Seek Him and His kingdom with His fresh mercy falling over you as you move through your day.

Fear not...it is His good pleasure to give. You. The Kingdom. When our focus is there – His Kingdom – we cannot be focused on this world and its cares. Give Him your heart and see how He treasures you and how your worry and cares do melt away under the flood of His daily mercy as you look to His Kingdom.

*"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence,
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."*

Hebrews 4:16



From my heart...

I realize that this issue of anxiety and the depression that often accompanies it is a hard topic. This hits very close to home for me in a deeply personal way. So, please hear my heart when I say that I believe anxiety (even clinically diagnosed) is an issue close to the center of our faith in Jesus. The last thing I want to do is heap guilt upon someone who struggles deeply and personally with anxiety and cause you to think that if you just "trusted Jesus enough" you wouldn't be sick. This is not my heart – not at all. If you need to seek professional therapy or need to take prescription medication to treat clinical anxiety you must do what helps. I know you love Jesus. I know you are struggling with your faith or lack of faith. I hear you. I care about you and your journey. If you would like to talk to me about my journey in this area, I am here. Let's come together in the name of Jesus seeking His kingdom which is full of grace and peace and truth. Do not let fear keep you from reaching out. I know the pain and sadness. It's so heavy and the guilt for feeling this way can be so overwhelming. Again, reach out. My number is 562.755.4964. You are not alone. You are loved and prayed for.

Love,

Jennifer

— Day Eleven —

Luke 12:35-53

... Open with Prayer ...

A simple web search for “end of the world predictions” will give you nearly 200 predictions that have been recorded throughout history dating from 66AD to the infamous Mayan calendar apparently predicting that the world would end December 21, 2012. There have been hundreds of predictions about the second coming of Jesus, but still we wait. How do we wait? From the previous verses, we’ve seen how NOT to wait. Now, let’s study further to see how we are to wait.

Read Luke 12:35-40

1. Write **Luke 12:40** here:

2. What are the followers of Jesus to be ready for? _____
How? Read on.

3. ***List every imperative (*command*) verb or verb phrase you find from Luke 12:35-40:

1. Stay dressed (v. 35) _____.
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Summarize in one or two words.

4. Summarize the “beware” and admonitions of chapter 12:

___ Luke 12:1 _____
___ Luke 12:15 _____
___ Luke 12:22 _____
___ Luke 12:40 _____

On the line before each verse:

- write a ↓ for those warnings that have to do with present day attentions and what we should do now
- write a ↑ for the warning that has to do with our future and what we should be ready for

Jewish weddings were held at night. The groom’s servants would need to wait for him to come home after the wedding making sure that not only were they ready to receive and take care of the bride and groom, but that the home was well lit and ready.

5. What reward do the servants who are ready earn? (v. 37)

God's rewards are not just a blessing, they are surprising! Masters don't serve their servants. Yet, this imagery is clear – the Master will be so pleased that He'll be serving His servants and having them recline at the table!

Read Luke 22:27 – What does Jesus say He is here to do? _____

6. The Romans divided the night into four watches. The Jews divided the watch into three (Judges 7:19). So, what does this imply about the servants who are awake at 2nd or 3rd watch?

The idea is for the servants to remain constantly _____

Read Luke 12:41-48

7. Who do you think Peter means by "us" and "all" in verse 41?

8. How does Jesus answer Peter's question? (v41-43)

Peter's mindset is still on a club mentality – who's in and who's out. He wants certain folks to have exclusivity with Jesus. But Jesus continues to redirect this thinking.

9. **Read Luke 8:21** – Who does Jesus say is "us?"

"Those who are " _____ and _____ "

10. ***Where else in Luke has Jesus explained what it looks like to be "us" – a follower of Jesus? List any other examples from the chapters we've covered in this study so far.

11. So, going back to #9, based on what Jesus has already taught, what **actions** and what **mindset** would the "faithful and wise" have? List several here along with the chapter and verse:

12. What are the two levels of punishment Jesus speaks of based on accountability:

1) The slave who was aware (v. 47) _____

2) The slave who was unaware (v. 48) _____

Consider also Jesus' admonition in **Luke 8:18**

13. **Read James 4:17** – Write it here:

It's not simply that God will punish those who do wrong. He certainly will. But as James reminds us, we cannot fail to do right.

Read Luke 12:49-53

After the previous verses with Jesus telling His disciples to “not be afraid” and to “not worry” ...after calling them His “little flock” this next passage is a shift in tone....

14. **Read Luke 4:18-19** What was Jesus called to bring?

Good news to some is judgment for others.

15. What does Jesus say He has **also** come to bring? (Luke 12:49) _____

16. What does Jesus say in this passage (Luke 12:51) that He will give? _____

17. ***As we've studied through Luke, you've read that not everyone has been pleased with the message of Christ. Go back a few chapters and list a few examples we've read so far of the “division” Jesus is bringing:

Not everyone is pleased with the message of Christ today either! A peaceful priest or a kind King is fine, but a judgmental prophet? – no thank you. That seems too harsh. That feels too mean. That's not the Jesus people want. But, what we may or may not want is not what matters in eternity. This is why - going back to the introduction on page 187 - our worldview matters. If your worldview is founded upon the God of the Bible, then you'll take the whole of Jesus – prophet, priest and king.

18. **Read Luke 12:53** and list the ways a house/family will be divided:

19. What has Jesus said about **His family**? (Hint: Luke 8:21 ...sound familiar?)

Read Luke 12:54-59

20. What signs did the crowds use to tell the weather? _____ and _____
Today we have our weather apps, and we use them do help us know what to wear, how to leave the house prepared, and what to expect in the days to come, right? What app would Jesus' audience have used to tell the weather? iCloud! Ok, I couldn't resist that one. Thank you, I'm here on Mondays and Tuesdays...leave a tip for your waiter... Now, back to our study. ☺

21. What is Jesus' judgment against them? (v. 56)

He calls them _____ .

Because they _____ .

22. What was this "present time" they failed to interpret? (Think about Jesus' earlier warnings in Luke 12.)

23. While practical, this closing parable is a warning again. What is Jesus warning about in this parable?

The nation of Israel was heading to judgment. The judge? The almighty God. Jesus is warning them to settle their case before that final day. Work it out with the magistrate – Jesus. We'll read more of this in Luke 13 and Luke 19.

...In Closing...

Like the "Rich Fool", are we more concerned with this world and what it offers? Are we tuned to earthly signs and proud of our ability to predict the weather, but deaf to heavenly matters and the weak in our ability to read and understand the eternal Word of God? Jesus is not some distant force used by God to cast judgment from afar on the earth. He is right here with us emotionally, physically, spiritually engaged with us. He was in "great distress" as He anticipated His own fiery trial at the cross. Recall that John the Baptist said, "I baptize you with water, but He who is mightier than I is coming...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with **fire**." (Luke 3:16). Jesus is warning of judgment, warning to be "ready" and on guard against hypocrisy, covetousness, greed, and fear of this world. Be ready like a faithful servant for Jesus' return. Be mindful of the signs. Be serious about the judgment to come.

You are loved
AND
prayed for.