

July

2023

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Dig Deeper Study Tools

- Author's Purpose
- Context
- Structure
- Linking Words
- Parallels
- Narrator's Comment
- Vocabulary
- Translations
- Tone and Feel
- Repetition
- Quotation/Allusion
- Genre
- Copycat
- Bible Timeline
- "Who am I"
- "So What"

Luke – Discipleship

Sermon Series

02, 16 July 2023

Luke 13:22-35; 14:25-35

Following Jesus is High Commitment

23, 30 July 2023

Luke 15:11-16:13

Choose Your Master

Note: 9 July is Synod Sunday – there will be a break in the pulpit series

02, 16 July 2023

Luke 13:22-35; 14:25-35

Following Jesus is High Commitment

PREPARE (INDIVIDUAL): READ AND UNDERSTAND

Read the text throughout the week(s) before your group time.

Luke 14:25-35

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.”

Jesus’ Sorrow for Jerusalem

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 keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’ ³³ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

³⁴ “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, and 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.’ ”

Notes and Questions

The Cost of Being a Disciple

²⁵ Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸ “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹ For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, ³⁰ saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

³¹ “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he 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, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

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.

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

PREPARE TO SHARE (INDIVIDUAL): LOOK BACK

What was your walk with God like in the last few weeks?

Who has God laid on your heart to pray for?

GROUP: SHARE AND PRAY

Take note of your group members' sharing.

Come together as a group to pray for each other and for the needs of the church and the world (see this month's prayer bulletin).

GROUP: WORSHIP TOGETHER

Prepare your hearts to read God's Word and apply it to your lives through worshipping together.

GROUP: STUDY

Read Luke 13:22-35; 14:25-35.



What do you notice as you read this passage?

Think Further

Who are God's people, according to Luke 13:23-30? How do you feel about this?



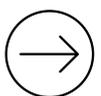
What questions do you have about this passage?

What does Luke 13:31-35 tell you about what Jesus' ultimate mission is?



What is the main idea of the passage?

We build towers and wage wars to ensure our own security – do we have enough resources for this? What is Jesus calling us to do?



What is the Spirit leading you to do in obedience to this passage? What applications have you made to your life and faith?

GROUP: DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS

What is the cost of *not* following Jesus? Is there any part of our lives that we have kept apart from Christ? Are we ready to pay the price of staying apart from him?

23, 30 July 2023

Luke 15:11-16:13

Choose Your Master

PREPARE (INDIVIDUAL): READ AND UNDERSTAND

Read the text throughout the week(s) before your group time.

Luke 15:11-16:13

The Parable of the Lost 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 servants 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 servants.’ 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.

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

Notes and Questions

Luke 15:11-16:13

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.’”

The Parable of the Shrewd Manager

16 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 “‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

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.

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 one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

PREPARE TO SHARE (INDIVIDUAL): LOOK BACK

What was your walk with God like in the last few weeks?

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GROUP: SHARE AND PRAY

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GROUP: WORSHIP TOGETHER

Prepare your hearts to read God's Word and apply it to your lives through worshipping together.

GROUP: STUDY

Read Luke 15:11-16:13



What do you notice as you read this passage?

Think Further

What does the parable of the lost son tell us about God's attitude towards us?

What is Jesus calling us to do?

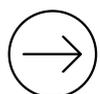


What questions do you have about this passage?



What is the main idea of the passage?

What have we been entrusted with by God in this world? How are we using it?



What is the Spirit leading you to do in obedience to this passage? What applications have you made to your life and faith?

GROUP: DISCIPLESHIP FOCUS

Do we serve God for ourselves or for what God will give us? In the parable of the lost son, both sons saw their father ultimately as a source of wealth instead of their beloved father, and in the parable of the shrewd manager, Jesus calls us to use wealth to serve God, instead of serving wealth. Which is more important to us?