



## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

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### LESSON 10 - STUDY QUESTIONS LUKE 11:5-12:7

#### DAY ONE

1. What idea from last week's lesson (Lesson 9, Chapters 10-11:4), the Reflection, or the Commentary provided new insight into the teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ?

#### Read Luke 11:5-13

2a. After teaching His disciples to pray, Jesus presented His listeners with a hypothetical situation in which a person goes to a neighbor's house at midnight to ask for 3 loaves of bread (verse 5). From verse 6, why did that person need to ask his friend for bread?

b. What did Jesus say the friend inside the house answered (verse 7)?

3a. Even though the friend inside the house would not get up for the sake of friendship, why did Jesus say he would get up (verse 8)?

b. In verse 9, how did Jesus apply this story to the need to be persistent in prayer? (Good memory verse)

4. What was Jesus' beautiful conclusion in verse 10 about His Father's willingness to help each of us? (Good memory verse!)

5a. Jesus then asked two striking questions of His audience. Record verses 11-12.

b. No parent would do such a thing! How did Jesus use this example to describe God as a good parent (verse 13)?

6. CONNECTION: What a beautiful image: a loving Father who dotes on His children; a Father Who revels in giving good gifts to His children; a Father Who gives even more than asked; a Father Who loves His children, but knows what is good for them. Consider a time when you asked and asked but God's answer was not what you expected. In hindsight you now see that the answer was the right one. Share your story with your small group.

We have often heard "I asked God for strength that I might achieve great things, yet I was given weakness that I might learn humbly to obey." Begin your prayer today asking God to give you just what you need.

## **DAY TWO**

**Read Luke 11:14-23**

7a. Today's lesson begins with Jesus casting out a demon from a possessed man who was mute. According to verse 14, what happened when the demon left the man and what was the crowd's reaction?

b. Jesus' exorcism of the demon caused a controversy. Some of those who witnessed the miracle accused Jesus of casting out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons. In what manner did others test Him according to verse 16?

**NOTE:** "Beelzebul" was a derogatory term used to describe and name Satan. From the Aramaic, its derivation is thought to mean "Lord of the Flies" or "Lord of Dung."

8. Jesus knew that some were thinking His power to remove the demon came from Beelzebul (Satan). He explained that it would not make sense for Satan to attack his own demons. Record His explanation in verse 17 (later famously quoted by Abraham Lincoln regarding America's position on slavery).

9a. Jesus then reasoned that if the devil were empowering Him, then it would follow that the devil was also empowering their own "exorcists". He knew that their exorcists would deny this. Record the end of verse 19.

b. Jesus then presented an alternative explanation for the healing. Record the "if-then" statement in verse 20.

10. Jesus closed His argument with a parable about a strong man who is overcome by a stronger man. Read verses 21-22 and explain who you think the strong man represents and who the stronger man represents.

11. Verse 23 (good memory verse) contains a warning for those who have heard and seen but didn't believe. Read and record verse 23.

12. CONNECTION: In today's lesson we see the war between good and evil, God and Satan, the finger of God versus the harm the demon brings. In spite of Christ's victory of the Cross and resurrection, the battle continues. While through the grace of Christ our salvation has been won, our souls are constantly being attacked by evil. The devil is strong but Jesus is stronger! We must on a daily basis choose which "master" we will serve; there is no such thing as being neutral in this battle. Remembering that at Confirmation we were given the responsibility of being a soldier for Christ, what are some ways in which you arm yourself each day and week?

Read and record 1 Peter 5:8 and begin your prayer today asking to be strong in your faith and ever-watchful against sin.

**DAY THREE**  
**Read Luke 11:24-32**

13a. In today's lesson Jesus continued to preach on the theme of demonic possession. He explained that when the unclean spirit has gone out of a person it wanders "through waterless regions looking for a resting place." What does it say when it fails to find another resting place (verse 24)?

b. To what do you think "my house" refers and how does this relate to the term possession?

14. When the unclean spirit returns, it finds the "house" swept and put in order (in other words, the "house" is clean but still empty). According to verse 26, what happens?

**THINK:** If our rooms are occupied by God, there will be no uninvited guests to mess up the house! Consider what rooms you may have tidy but empty!

15. While Jesus was speaking, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!" Jesus' response helps us understand that His spiritual family is even more important than His earthly one. Record verse 28.

16a. In verse 29 we read that the crowds increased and Jesus began to speak again. What did He say about their generation?

**NOTE:** Some scholars believe that Jonah was a "sign" to the Ninevites because they actually came to believe and repent after Jonah preached to them. Other scholars say that the sign of Jonah is a metaphor for Jesus' death and resurrection (representing the time Jonah spent in the belly of the whale).

b. Verse 30 says that "As Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Son of Man will be to this generation." Who do you think is the Son of Man?

17a. Jesus then referred to an episode in the Old Testament when the "queen of the South" (the queen of Sheba) left her pagan land to seek the wisdom of Solomon and returned home believing in God (read 1 Kings 10:1-13). Record Jesus' description of Himself from the end of verse 31.

b. The people of Nineveh heard the word of God from Jonah and believed and repented. Not all of those who heard Jesus preach believed and repented. What did Jesus say the people of Nineveh would do at the last judgment to those unbelievers (verse 32)?

18. **CONNECTION:** How blessed are those who hear and believe! Many of us have grown up in a Christian home and have had the blessing of a religious education from an early age. Many have continued their faith journey uninterrupted throughout their lives; however, for some, faith can become so routine that we "sleep walk" through its blessings. Sometimes a moment of grace will awaken our faith. Have you or someone you know had an experience in which you were reawakened to your faith? Share with your small group what caused the reawakening and what changes it made in your journey.

Read and record Ephesians 5:14 and write a prayer today thanking Jesus for awakening you to a new life in Him!

#### DAY FOUR

Read Luke 11:33-44

19a. Today's lesson begins with a favorite verse and reflects back on the Parable of the Lamp (Luke 8:16-18). Record verse 33.

b. In verse 34 Jesus said, "Your eye is the lamp of your body; If your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light; but if it is not healthy, your body is full of darkness." He continued by asking them to be sure that the light in them was not darkness (verse 35). What did He tell them in verse 36?

**THINK:** The "eye as a lamp" is an ancient notion that the eye emits light that enables one to see. Spiritual eyesight allows us to see and understand spiritual things. When we say, "Do you see what I mean?", we ask if the other person clearly understands. If our spiritual eye is "cloudy", then we do not "see" clearly. What do you use to "keep your lamp clean?"

20a. While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee invited Him to dine with him, so He went in and took His place at the table. According to verse 38, what amazed the Pharisee?

b. Washing hands before dinner was a rabbinic rule for ritual purification rather than for cleanliness. The Lord responded by commenting on the hypocrisy of the Pharisee. Record his words in verse 39.

21a. In verse 40, after calling them fools, what does Jesus ask them?

b. Jesus then cautioned them to give for alms those things that are within (first part of verse 41). Record the result of true almsgiving at end of verse 41.

22. Compare Luke 11: 39-41 with Matthew 23:25-26 and briefly comment on one difference between the two passages.

23a. Not only did Jesus call the Pharisees fools, but then he judged them with words familiar to the prophets, saying, "Woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and herbs of all kinds." What did the Pharisees neglect according to verse 42?

**NOTE:** The Pharisees tithed (gave 1/10 of all their produce, even to the smallest of their harvest, such as the various herbs that were mentioned in verse 42) to the temple. While tithing is good, Jesus was more concerned with their spiritual practices rather than their material giving.

b. Jesus then expressed God's displeasure with the Pharisees, once again stating, "Woe to you!" Identify and record the bad things the Pharisees did from verse 43.

24. CONNECTION: In today's lesson we hear Jesus' strident accusations against the Pharisees who got the small things right and the big things wrong. They calculated the tenth of the herbs they owed the temple but found ways to avoid giving alms to the poor. True "almsgiving" is giving of oneself both materially and spiritually. The Pharisees paid lip service to their faith but failed to practice justice and the love of God. For instance, they placed great emphasis on ritual hand washing but did not worship God from the heart. What are some ways that you or someone you know "gets the big things right" in the worship of God through almsgiving, compassion for fellow man, or striving for justice? Share some thoughts with your small group.

Read Isaiah 58:6-10 and record one of these verses which so beautifully describe the true law of giving.

#### **DAY FIVE**

**Read Luke 11:45-54**

25a. As today's lesson begins, one of the lawyers listening to Jesus answered Him. In verse 45 what did the lawyer say?

b. Jesus responded by saying, "Woe also to you lawyers." What did He accuse them of doing in verse 46?

26a. Jesus continued to speak of their hypocrisy. With what phrase did Jesus again denounce the lawyers (beginning of verse 47)?

b. In verse 47 Jesus accused the lawyers of hiding the guilt of their ancestors. Record His accusation.

**NOTE:** While this passage may be confusing to us, Jesus was saying that by their building the tombs of the prophets they were collaborating with the killing of the prophets by their ancestors.

27a. What did Jesus say in verse 48 that made the Pharisees equally responsible with the lawyers for the deaths of the prophets?

b. Jesus continued to remind them that the prophets of old that were renounced and killed were sent by God. While it appears that Jesus quotes the Old Testament, this verse may be more of a prophecy of Jesus' death than a quote. Record the beginning of verse 49.

28a. Jesus concluded that the Pharisees of His time were included among their ancestors for the sins of the past as well as for the future. Record His words from verse 50.

b. In verse 51, Jesus spoke of “the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah”, both of whom were murdered, and ended by saying, “Yes, I tell you, it will be charged against this generation.” In this case, what do you think will be charged against this generation?

29a. Once again Jesus accused the Pharisees saying, "Woe to you lawyers," because they misrepresented the most important spiritual principles of the Old Testament to the people. How did He accuse them in verse 52?

b. When He went outside, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile toward Him and to cross-examine Him about many things (verse 53). What were they doing according to verse 54?

30. CONNECTION: In today's lesson we can see that Jesus' accusations have escalated the hostility of the Pharisees and lawyers. Six different times in verses 42 – 54 Jesus said, "Woe to you."

Verse 42 - Woe to you ... for neglecting justice and God

Verse 43 - Woe to you ... for pride and vanity (loving the seat of honor)

Verse 44 - Woe to you ... for your sins defile others

Verse 46 - Woe to you ... for burdening others and not helping them

Verse 47 - Woe to you ... for building tombs for those your ancestors killed

Verse 52 - Woe to you ... for taking away the key to knowledge

After looking at the sins of the Pharisees and lawyers, we are prompted to ask ourselves this important question: Do we have our own priorities "straight"? With what weapons do we wage the continual battle against hypocrisy? Share with your small group some ways in which you try to set and keep your faith priorities so that Jesus will never say, "Woe to you!"

Read and record Psalm 119:11 and write a short prayer today asking God to help you keep Him first in your heart and help you refrain from sin.

## **DAY SIX**

**Read Luke 12:1-7**

31. As today's lesson begins, the crowd gathered by the thousands, so that they trampled on one another. Jesus began to speak first to His disciples. What did He say according to verse 1?

32. Jesus was both warning and teaching His disciples. In verse 2 he spoke of the "yeast of the Pharisees," possibly indicating hidden corruption. Jesus told them that ultimately all would be revealed. Record verse 2.

33. Record verse 3, which contains a quote familiar to us, and reiterates the thoughts of verse 2. (Good memory verse)



34a. Jesus continued to teach His disciples, who in this verse (and only here) He refers to as "friends". In verse 4 what did he exhort them not to fear?

b. Who did He say they should fear (verse 5)?

35. He went on to talk about how worthless sparrows are, yet they are not forgotten in God's sight (verse 6). Then Jesus said that each of us is even more valuable to God. What a wonderful encouragement! Record verse 7. (Another great memory verse!)

36. CONNECTION: How many times have you as a mother or father, or older sister or brother, or aunt or uncle, brushed the hair back from the head of a small child and wondered at its softness, and noticed the swirls or curls, and felt an immense outpouring of love. So, too, is God's love for each of us, that He knows the count of the hairs on our head! And just as we sometimes get irritated with those we love the most, God, too, must become impatient with us! Today write a prayer for one person that you particularly love (and perhaps with whom you have been a bit irritated), speaking briefly about why you love that person, and asking for God's blessing on them. Ask, too, that you concentrate more on your love of that person, and less on the unimportant things.

Read and record 1 Peter 4:8 and read again the prayer that you wrote today.

After completing this lesson, read pages 79-85 in the *The Gospel According to Luke* by Michael F. Patella, O.S.B. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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