



## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

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LESSON 16 - STUDY QUESTIONS  
LUKE 19:11-20:19

### DAY ONE

1. What idea from reading the commentary regarding last week's lesson (Lesson 15, Luke 18:1 - 19:10) did you find most interesting?

Read Luke 19:11-25

2. As today's lesson begins, Jesus again tells a parable. What reasons does Luke give for the telling of the parable at this time and why would it be important (verse 11)?

NOTE: Many of Jesus' followers think that an earthly kingdom is about to begin with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and that His entry will be as glorious as that of King Solomon's ([1 Kings 1:32-40](#)). Since they still did not grasp the true meaning of His Kingdom, Jesus tells the parable to help their understanding.

3a. In verse 12 Jesus said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to get royal power for himself and then return." Perhaps the nobleman represents Jesus, Who will ascend and sit at the Father's right hand. What did the nobleman do and say to his slaves as he departed (verse 13)?

b. Others of the nobleman's country sent a delegation after him to the distant country to prevent the nobleman from receiving royal power. What did they say against the nobleman (verse 14)?

4a. In spite of their efforts, the nobleman received royal power. Upon his return, he ordered his ten slaves to report what each had gained with his pound (verse 15). Briefly summarize the results and rewards for the first two slaves (verses 16-19).

b. The first two slaves were made rulers in the nobleman's kingdom. What had the third slave had done with his pound and what was his reasoning (verses 20-21)?

5. Briefly summarize the Master's response from verses 22-25.

6. CONNECTION: The story of the parable of the ten pounds references Jesus' own journey. Just as the nobleman in the parable went away to become royal, Jesus knew that He would leave His disciples and be exalted by His Father in heaven. Like the nobleman, Jesus expects His disciples, including us, to put His gifts to good use in His "absence." We must make His "Treasure" grow! Share with your small group a way in which you spread His love. What "returns" do you think you or others have gained on this "investment"?

Read Romans 14:11-12 and record verse 12 and pray that the blessings of God's Word increase in your life and in those you touch.

DAY TWO

Read Luke 19:26-36

7a. In yesterday's lesson, the nobleman reprimanded the third servant who had failed to invest the pound entrusted to him (and even took it away from the servant). Record his stern warning from verse 26.

NOTE: Our commentary explains verse 26 by saying that "goods are to be employed for the upbuilding of the kingdom, and goods that are not used for this purpose will be taken away," as the third servant's money was.

b. At the end of the parable the nobleman called for a much harsher punishment for his "enemies who did not want him to be king." Who were Jesus' "enemies" that "did not want him to be king"?

8a. After the conclusion of the parable, Jesus "went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem" (verse 28). When He had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, He sent two of the disciples on an errand. What did He say to them (verse 30)?

b. What did Jesus tell the two disciples to say if anyone asked them why they were untying the colt (verse 31)?

9a. According to verse 32, what did the two disciples do?

b. As they were untying the colt, its owner asked them a question. Record the question (verse 33) and the disciples' response (verse 34).

10a. Summarize what they did with the colt according to verse 35.

b. Read Genesis 49:10-11, and record words or a phrase that relates to Jesus' kingship and the mount He was to ride into Jerusalem.

11a. As Jesus rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. For what reason do you think they did this?

b. Read Zechariah 9:9, and record the phrases in the prophecy that relate to Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

12. CONNECTION: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you ... humble and riding on a donkey ..." Zechariah's powerful and prophetic words were well known to the Israelites. Jesus chose to enter Jerusalem in a manner that would seem to fulfill a prophecy of the long-promised Messiah to all who saw or heard of His entrance. For a moment, imagine yourself among the crowd who are spreading their cloaks on the road. What might you have been thinking and how would it have made you feel?

Read and record Acts 3:24 and let thoughts of God's great plan for His beloved mankind lead you into prayer.

DAY THREE

Read Luke 19:37-40

13. As described in yesterday's passage Jesus was riding "up to Jerusalem" on a donkey colt. Jerusalem is indeed higher than the surrounding area. Scholars also say that going "up" to Jerusalem may foreshadow coming events. Can you suggest what "going up" could mean symbolically?

14. "As He was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God" (beginning of verse 37). In what manner does the ending of verse 37 say they were praising God and for what reason?

15a. The multitude welcomed Christ to Jerusalem with a traditional song used by pilgrims who travel to Jerusalem for Passover from Psalm 118:26. Note the title with which they address Jesus in verse 38.

b. Record the second half of verse 38 and compare it with the angelic hymn sung at the birth of Christ in Luke 2:14.

16. The Pharisees in the crowd were not chanting praises. What did they say to Jesus?

NOTE: From USCCB [19:39] Rebuke your disciples: this command, found only in Luke, was given so that the Roman authorities would not interpret the acclamation of Jesus as king as an uprising against them.

17a. Record Jesus' answer in verse 40 and comment on what the reaction of natural things might be if the people did not praise and acknowledge Him.

b. This phrase was used by Habakkuk the prophet to decry those who would suppress God's chosen people. Read and record the first line of Habakkuk 2:11.

18. CONNECTION: A great divide exists between the jubilant crowd who welcome the long-awaited king and the Pharisees who are threatened by the crowd's support of Jesus. Perhaps it is not so different in our world today. Although the Pharisees wished to silence Jesus' disciples, and many wish to silence Christians today, sometimes God's love is so big and obvious that if we do not cry out in praise and thanksgiving even the stones will cry out!

Think of an example from current (or past) history in which people of faith are first silenced, and then persecuted.

Read Matthew 10:26-27 and write a prayer today for people of all faiths, but especially for Christians whose voices are silenced and who are persecuted for their beliefs, that they may again "speak in the light and proclaim from the rooftops."

DAY FOUR

Read Luke 19:41-48

19. As today's lesson begins, Jesus drew near to Jerusalem. Record what He did and said when He saw the city according to the end of verse 41 and verse 42.

20a. What does Jesus predict for Jerusalem from its enemies in verse 43?

NOTE: "The lament for Jerusalem is found only in Luke. By not accepting Jesus (the one who mediates peace) Jerusalem will not find peace but will become the victim of devastation." (USCCB) This anticipates the devastation of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D.

b. The destruction of Jerusalem was prophesied in the Old Testament. Read and record one of the following prophecies of Jerusalem's siege and fall.

Jeremiah 6:6

Ezekiel 4:1-2

21a. It is not just the city that Jesus is weeping for, but for all sinners who cannot see the truth. According to verse 44 for what reason will they "crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another ..."

b. Jesus then entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there (verse 45). Record the verse He quoted from Isaiah 56:7 in verse 46.

22a. According to the beginning of verse 47, what did Jesus then do every day?

b. What were the chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people doing while He taught (end of verse 47)?

23. For what reason does verse 48 indicate that the Jewish leaders were unable to find anything they could do against Jesus?

24. CONNECTION: Today's lesson shows us Jesus' care for Jerusalem, the Temple, and for the faithful who worship there in prayer. The outside courtyard of the Temple was also a sacred place; it was where Gentiles were taught about the One, True God. We, too, are taught about God in our "temples"... our churches. Even in those holy places, distractions can make it difficult to put aside thoughts of the "outer world" and concentrate on God's teachings. How can you prepare yourself to "meet God at His house" in the most reverent way?

Read and record Habakkuk 2:20 and begin your prayer today praising God for being with us everywhere, but especially in the holiness of the Eucharist.

DAY FIVE

Read Luke 20:1-8

25a. As today's lesson opens, we again find Jesus teaching in the temple and telling the good news. This day is a day of questions. According to verse 2, what two questions did the chief priests and the scribes and elders begin by asking Him?

b. "These things" referred to everything that Jesus had done so far in His ministry, not just His teaching or even His cleansing of the Temple. Why did they ask Jesus these questions and what they were trying to accomplish?

26. Jesus turned the tables on the chief priests, scribes and elders by asking them a question in return (verse 3). What question did He ask of them (end of verse 4)?

27a. Jesus' question regarding the baptism of John stumped them. They discussed that no matter how they answered, they would look "wrong" to the people. What were they afraid would happen if they admitted that John the Baptist was from heaven (verse 5)?

b. What were they afraid would happen if they said that John the Baptist was of human origin?

28. According to verse 7, how did the chief priests, elders and scribes, who are now Jesus' enemies, answer Him?

29. What was Jesus' response to their original question regarding from whence His authority came?

30. CONNECTION: "By what authority do you do these things?" The question posed by the Jewish leadership is the same question posed by so many today. They had heard of and seen the miracles of Jesus and listened to His inspired teaching, but they were not open to the Holy Spirit. They wanted Jesus to "prove" his divinity. He knew their hearts were not open, and so He would not answer them. Sometimes we also question His authority but do not open our hearts to Him. How can we ignore the beauty of God's world, His goodness, and all the things He has done for us? Describe a time when your faith may have faltered and you asked for "proof" and it came to you in an unexpected way.

Read and record Hebrews 11:1 and write a prayer today asking Our Lord Jesus Christ to remove any questions from your heart and to strengthen your faith.

DAY SIX

Read Luke 20:9-19

31a. Understanding that the Jewish leaders wanted to kill Him, Jesus told a parable about a man who planted a vineyard, leased it to tenants, and went to another country for a long time (verse 9). In the Old Testament, a vineyard was often a symbol of Israel. Select one of the following verses and record the words or phrases which describe Israel as a vineyard.

Psalm 80:8-9

Jeremiah 2:21

b. Jesus described how the landlord three times sent a slave to collect his share of the produce of the vineyard (verses 10-12). Summarize what the tenants did to each slave.

32a. At that point the landlord wondered what to do. What did he decide (verse 13)?

b. The tenants reacted badly. Summarize their evil plan and what they did (verse 14 and beginning of verse 15).

33a. Jesus then asked the people what they thought the landlord would do to the tenants (end of verse 15). How did He answer His own question?

b. Realizing that Jesus was referring to Israel as the vineyard, the people reacted with horror to His words. What did they say (verse 16)?

34. Jesus then looked at the people and quoted Psalm 118:22 and asked what it meant (verse 17). Record His quote.

b. Jesus again answered His own question with another Old Testament quotation, this time more generally from Isaiah 8:14-15. Record it from verse 18.

35. How did the scribes and chief priests react when they realized that he had told this parable against them (verse 19)?

36. CONNECTION: In today's parable of the vineyard, the landlord sent his slaves to collect rent his tenants owed him. Each messenger was rejected and mistreated. Finally he sent his beloved son, whom the tenants threw out and killed. Those listening must have recognized Jesus' meaning, with God as the landlord, Israel as the vineyard, the prophets as His messengers, and His beloved Son before them telling of the retribution to come. God is



patient but He is also just. Jerusalem was to be destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD, a judgment foretold by Jesus. We, too, must answer for our actions to a merciful but just God. Share with your small group some thoughts on what it may be like when we appear before God for judgment.

Read and record Ecclesiastes 12:14 and begin your prayer today asking that God will be merciful when we face Him in judgment.

After completing this lesson, read pages 124-130 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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