Seminole
BAPTIST CHURCH

KINGDOM PHYSICIAN

PART 1

Forty Daily Devotions
from Luke 1-12
(Based on the NKJV)

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Introduction

Although the author's name is not given anywhere in the Gospel of Luke, we are sure it was written by the very special believer to whom Paul referred to as "the beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14). Luke was a close friend and ministry partner to the apostle Paul and is believed to be the only non-Jew to write any part of the New Testament. When we consider the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts combined, we realize that this man wrote a sizable percentage of the New Testament. Besides that, some are convinced that Luke was the author of Hebrews. If so, then he wrote more of the New Testament, by volume, than any other writer. Being a Gentile, Luke, no doubt, confirmed Paul's conviction that God had "chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise…the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty." Because of Luke's understanding of the Gospel and the Old Testament writings from a Gentile perspective, the Holy Spirit was able to use him to write from a non-Jewish point of view. For example, Luke was the only writer to include the stories of the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, and Zacchaeus, just to name a few. While Luke was a trained medical doctor, it will not take you long to realize that the Kingdom Physician about which he wrote was none other than the Lord Jesus Christ!

Daily Reading Schedule

Day	Scripture Reading	Date
1	Luke 1:1-13	10/08/26
2	Luke 1:14-25	10/09/26
3	Luke 1:26-38	10/10/26
4	Luke 1:39-56	10/11/26
5	Luke 1:57-66	10/12/26
6	Luke 1:67-80	10/13/26
7	Luke 2:1-14	10/14/26
8	Luke 2:15-32	10/15/26
9	Luke 2:33-52	10/16/26
10	Luke 3:1-17	10/17/26
11	Luke 3:18-38	10/18/26
12	Luke 4:1-15	10/19/26
13	Luke 4:16-30	10/20/26
14	Luke 4:31-44	10/21/26
15	Luke 5:1-16	10/22/26
16	Luke 5:17-32	10/23/26
17	Luke 5:33-6:11	10/24/26
18	Luke 6:12-26	10/25/26
19	Luke 6:27-42	10/26/26
20	Luke 6:43-7:10	10/27/26

Day	Scripture Reading	Date
21	Luke 7:11-28	10/28/26
22	Luke 7:29-48	10/29/26
23	Luke 7:49-8:10	10/30/26
24	Luke 8:11-25	10/31/26
25	Luke 8:26-39	11/01/26
26	Luke 8:40-56	11/02/26
27	Luke 9:1-17	11/03/26
28	Luke 9:18-36	11/04/26
29	Luke 9:37-48	11/05/26
30	Luke 9:49-62	11/06/26
31	Luke 10:1-16	11/07/26
32	Luke 10:17-37	11/08/26
33	Luke 10:38-11:13	11/09/26
34	Luke 11:14-28	11/10/26
35	Luke 11:29-41	11/11/26
36	Luke 11:42-54	11/12/26
37	Luke 12:1-12	11/13/26
38	Luke 12:13-23	11/14/26
39	Luke 12:24-44	11/15/26
40	Luke 12:45-59	11/16/26

Day 1: Luke 1:1-13

"It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus," (Luke 1:3)

"An Orderly Account"

Luke begins his record by stating that he wrote with a *very significant purpose*. He wanted to provide all present and future followers of Christ "an orderly account" of the ministry of Jesus Christ. Even though "many" had previously written about Jesus (v. 1), Luke wanted to write with an emphasis on the chronological *order* of the events recorded in the history of Christ. Luke is the only Bible writer that used this Greek word that is translated "orderly" here. By comparing today's focus verse to Acts 11:4, you will see that Luke wanted to write things in the specific order in which they occurred. These early verses of Luke also include some information about some *very significant people*. Here we meet Zacharias and Elizabeth, who were among the few people that the Holy Spirit ever declared to be "righteous before God" and were said to be "walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord" in a "blameless" fashion (v. 6). However, even in the lives of these two very obedient, righteous people, Luke recorded what had to have been a *very significant problem.* Verse seven informs us that they "had no child, because Elizabeth was barren." The NKJV begins that sentence with the word "but." Early on, the **Kingdom Physician** wanted his readers to understand that even the sincerest believers experience trials and tribulation in this life.

Prayer Emphasis: Concentrate on the *blessings* you have received and **resist** the temptation to focus on the *burdens* that day-to-day life may bring. **Focus** on living the life to which God has called you and **trust** Him to strengthen you as you face life's problematic situations!

Day 2: Luke 1:14-25

"'And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.'" (Luke 1:14)

"Joy and Gladness"

Today's focus verse includes two words that are remarkably similar. However, in the language in which Luke wrote, these words expressed two entirely different thoughts. The word that is translated "joy" comes from a word that is often used in the New Testament to describe *overcoming joy*. This word is most often used to describe the mindset of those who have had significant and beneficial changes in their situations or circumstances. For example, this word was used to describe the change in the attitudes of the women that visited the tomb of Jesus when they learned He was no longer dead, but alive! Matthew 28:8 states that upon hearing from the angel that Jesus was alive, "they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great *joy*." The word that is translated "gladness" in our focus verse is also describing joy, but it is a stronger word that implies that our overcoming joy has become an *overwhelming joy*! For example, in the 24th verse of Jude, this same Greek word is translated "exceeding joy." Zacharias and Elizabeth were told that a son would come into their lives. As a result, they would experience all the typical "joy" that any parent might experience. However, because God chose to send them this promised son in a miraculous way and at a miraculous time, their "joy" would grow into "gladness."

Prayer Emphasis: Allow the **Kingdom Physician** to write a prescription for overwhelming joy in your life by serving Him faithfully even during less than desirable circumstances. **Realize** that doing so will soon allow us to **express** the kind of "gladness" that will be a testimony to those around us!

Day 3: Luke 1:26-38

"And having come in, the angel said to her, 'Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!'" (Luke 1:28)

"Rejoice!"

When God sent the angel Gabriel to inform Mary about the miracle that was to occur in her life, his first word to her was "rejoice!" Some English Bibles use either "hail" or "greetings" to translate the first word of this angelic announcement. In the various English translations of the Bible, this word is translated "rejoice" more often than any other way. Yesterday's devotional associated the word "joy" with our overcoming difficult and desperate situations while "gladness" was associated with the overwhelming desire to express our joy to others. Now, another similar word is used to describe the kind of joy that is associated with obedience. The first "joy" that this word was used to describe was the long-awaited reward of the magi who, after following the Star for approximately 12 to 18 months, finally led them to the home of Jesus. Matthew 2:10 tells us that, "When they saw the star, they *rejoiced* with exceedingly great joy." Unlike the wise men, Mary's "rejoicing" was to come at the onset, and not the end, of what would surely be a difficult "journey." Whether the blessing comes at the beginning or end of our experience, we are commanded by our Lord to "rejoice" throughout the various experiences of life (see Matthew 5:12).

Prayer Emphasis: Remember that the indwelling Christ gives us joy at the *onset* of our experiences as well as at the *outcome* of our experiences. **Trust** Christ when the testing begins as you will **rejoice** when it ends!

Day 4: Luke 1:39-56

"...when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary...the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!'" (Luke 1:41-42)

"Blessed!"

Thus far, we have briefly studied three very important words that are found in the "orderly account" which Luke has provided for us. Those three words were "joy," "gladness," and "rejoice." Today's focus verses include another similar word when we are told that Elizabeth declared Mary to be "*blessed*!" The Greek word that is translated "*blessed*" here is used in at least three ways throughout the gospels. Those three ways are found in the first three times that the word occurs in the New Testament. First, it is used in association with *consideration*. In Matthew 5:44, Jesus commanded His followers to "bless" those who cursed them. As such, He was commanding them to return kindness for cruelty. We can rest assured that the prescription that the **Kingdom Physician** gave to those early believers is still good medicine for us today! Second, this same word is used in association with *consecration*. Matthew 14:19 tells us that Jesus first "blessed" the five loaves of bread before He used them to miraculously feed over 5,000 people! Then, this same word is used in association with *celebration*. In Matthew 21:9 we read where those who were present at the time of our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David: *Blessed* is He that comes in the name of the LORD!"

Prayer Emphasis: Consider the fact that Elizabeth, with full knowledge of Mary's difficult situation, still loudly pronounced Mary to be "blessed." **Believe** that God can turn your *heaviest burdens* into some of your *highest blessings*! **Encourage** someone who is struggling under a heavy load today!

Day 5: Luke 1:57-66

"When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her." (Luke 1:58)

Joy is Contagious!

In today's focus verse we are confronted with yet another word that expresses the kind of joy that is available to those who carefully follow the commands of their **Kingdom Physician**! On day two we read about the Angel of the Lord telling Zacharias that he and his wife would have "joy and gladness" and that they would "rejoice" at the birth of a long-desired son. On day three we found Elizabeth rejoicing with Mary at the thought of her being pregnant with God's own (and only) begotten Son. Now, on day five, we find that Elizabeth's joy affected the lives of those around her. Luke 1:58 tells us, "When her (Elizabeth's) neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her." The kind of "rejoicing" described here is one that can be shared with others. Luke is the only gospel writer to use this word, and he only used it three times. However, in each of those three usages, it is made clear that this kind of "rejoicing" will definitely affect those around us. This word is found twice more in Luke 15:6 and 9 where we read about the "friends and neighbors" who were requested to "rejoice" with the shepherd who had found his lost sheep and with the woman who had found her lost coin.

Prayer Emphasis: Ask God to make you a "Contagious Christian" whose praise and joy spreads to the lives of others. When we **praise God** *privately*, we will soon find ourselves praising Him *publicly*!

Day 6: Luke 1:67-80

"So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel." (Luke 1:80)

No Surprise Here!

It should not surprise us to read that the miracle son of Zacharias and Elizabeth, John the Baptist, "grew and became strong in spirit." Every time I read that statement, I am reminded of the words of Nehemiah 8:10, "the joy of the LORD is your strength." As we read the stories and statements of Elizabeth and Zacharias, we cannot help but think that such people would train up a child that would become "strong in spirit," because he was raised by joyful parents. Depending on the version of the Bible you are reading, this prophecy of Zacharias begins with the word "blessed" or "praise" (v. 68). As amazing as this may seem to you, this is yet another word that is translated "blessed" and that expresses a specific kind of joy in the Scriptures. This is the first and only time this word was used by Luke. It is only found elsewhere in the gospels in Mark 14:61 when we read about the high priest asking Jesus, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the *Blessed*?" The kind of "blessing" this word describes is a blessing that can only be received from God. This word *always* refers to God's blessing and *never* refers to a blessing that is derived from any human source. John the Baptist was raised by a man who knew the blessings of God, and, as a result, he became a blessing to his father and mother as well as to us!

Prayer Emphasis: Express joyful praise for the Lord in the presence of your children. Lovingly **appreciate** and **compliment** your fellow believers to them. **Avoid** making critical remarks or repeating gossip about others. Our **Kingdom Physician** is also the **Kingdom Pediatrician**. **Trust** Him to know what is best for our children!

Day 7: Luke 2:1-14

"Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.'"(Luke 2:10)

More About "Joy" and "Praise"

Today's focus verse contains the second time the word that was earlier translated "joy" in Luke 1:14 is found in the Gospel of Luke. When we discussed this kind of "joy" (on day two) I stated that this kind of joy "comes from a word that is often used in the New Testament to describe *overcoming* joy." By that, I mean this word is most often used to describe the mindset of those who have had significant and beneficial changes in their situations or circumstances. You can be sure that the angel that spoke to the shepherds about this kind of joy understood an event was going to take place that night that would ultimately change the "situations and circumstances" of millions of people for many years to come! The word used to describe the angelic choir and their "praising God" in v. 13 is seen here for the first time in the New Testament. Although this word is found only nine times in all the New Testament, every one of those times describes a type of praise that is ***vocal***. In each of the situations where it is used, it describes praise to God, which is found in the form of singing, speaking, or shouting! The last time this word is used in the Scripture is in Revelation 19:5 where we read, "Then a voice came from the throne, saying, '*Praise* our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!'"

Prayer Emphasis: Find a way to publicly praise God today – whether by singing, speaking, or even shouting! **Ask** the **Kingdom Physician** to put a song in your heart that simply cannot be quenched.

Day 8: Luke 2:15-32

"Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God…" (Luke 2:20)

More "Verbal" Praise!

Today's focus verse contains the second time that the word for spoken or verbal praise is used in the New Testament. Yesterday we read about the angelic choir "praising" God, and now we find the men that made up their audience doing exactly the same thing! It is safe to say it was a heavenly song that first brought the shepherds to the manger and that a heavenly song remained with them when they finally left that amazing scene. This verbal praise was based on what the shepherds had "heard and seen" (v. 20). Notice that what they heard and saw was exactly as it had been "told them." Because of this, we come to understand that the source for this kind of verbal praise to God is His spoken Word! When we hear what God has to say to us, it greatly affects what we say to others. But, even more, it affects the *way we say things to others*! Notice that the praise described in Luke 2:20 is the kind of praise that glorified God. Today's focus verse contains the first time this word translated "glorifying" is found in the Gospel of Luke. According to the dictionary of the Greek language in which the New Testament was written, this word was used "to cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifested and acknowledged." It should not surprise us that the kind of praising and glorifying that expresses God's *worth* is the kind of praising and glorifying that is based on God's *Word*.

Prayer Emphasis: Our **Kingdom Physician** would prescribe a daily dose of Scripture for all His children! **Commit** to daily Bible reading and prayer and you will soon find that you have "caught" a good case of this contagious Christianity!

Day 9: Luke 2:33-52

"Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess…She was of a great age…and this woman was a widow…who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day." (Luke 2:36-37)

A "Super Senior"

Today's verses provide both the first and final mention of Anna in the New Testament. This wonderful woman's name literally means "grace." It could well be said that this was one person who truly lived up to her name! Anna is the Greek form of the Hebrew name "Hannah." Just as there was only one Anna mentioned in the New Testament, there was only one Hannah mentioned in the Old Testament. Hannah was the mother of Samuel, who, like her New Testament namesake, was faithfully committed to the service of the Lord. Anna was said to be "of a great age." Her approximate age was 84. I say approximate because the Holy Spirit said "*about* eighty-four" in verse 37! This faithful woman was a long-time widow who lost her husband just seven years after she was married. Since women often were married in their early teen years in Bible times, Anna had probably been alone for an extraordinarily long time. Luke tells us that this woman faithfully "served God with fastings and prayers night and day."

Prayer Emphasis: Our **Kingdom Physician** might prescribe a good dose of faithful service to help keep us feeling young and vital in God's service. **Thank** God for our faithful seniors and their significant service to our Savior and church. **Express** your appreciation to one of our own "Super Seniors" today!

Day 10: Luke 3:1-17

"…the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins…" (Luke 3:2-3)

The "Rhema" Word

While there are at least four different Greek words that are translated "word" in the New Testament, the one used in today's focus verse is "rhema" which always signifies a "spoken" word from God. This word is first found in Matthew 4:4 when Jesus referred to "every *word* which proceeds from the mouth of God." Luke used this word more often than any other Gospel writer, and, when you include the times it is mentioned in Acts (also written by or at least with Luke's assistance), then it is used by Luke nearly twice as many times as all the other Gospel writers combined. What else would you expect from a writer that promised to provide an "orderly account" of the history of Jesus and His ministry? The first time "rhema" is found in the New Testament is when Mary received a spoken message from Gabriel and she responded, "Let it be to me according to your *word*" (1:38). The "rhema" word was the "thing" that was spoken of when the shepherds said, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, *which the Lord has made known to us*" (2:15). The "rhema" word was later translated as the "saying" that was told the shepherds concerning the child Jesus (2:17). Because of the way this word is used in the New Testament, we can clearly understand God actually spoke to John the Baptist while he was in the wilderness. What did John immediately do after he heard a "rhema" Word from God? Our second focus verse tells us that, after he heard, he immediately "went into all the entire region around the Jordan, preaching…"!

Prayer Emphasis: Believe that one of the things our **Kingdom Physician** prescribes to His church today is immediate obedience to all that He has spoken to us! **Realize** that the best way to learn *more* from God is to **obey** that which we have already heard.

Day 11: Luke 3:18-38

"And with many other exhortations he preached to the people." (Luke 3:18)

John "Preached!"

Other than the one time the word translated "preached" is found in Matthew 11:5, Luke is the only Gospel writer that used this word – but he used it often. All four of the Gospels record this beginning of the public ministry of John the Baptist, and all four record the fact that he "preached!" Even though today's focus verse contains the first time the English word "preached" is found in the Gospel of Luke, the actual Greek word has been used twice in our previous verses. Looking back, and depending on the translation from which you are reading, the word that is translated "preached" here is translated as "good news," "good tidings," or "glad tidings" in both Luke 1:19 and 2:10. Looking forward, and depending on the translation from which you are reading, we will see this same Greek word translated "gospel" in Luke 4:18, 7:22, 9:6, and 20:1. Later, as Luke was writing the Book of Acts, he again used this same word to describe the preaching that the early church was doing. This same word was translated "gospel" at least four times in Acts. It is clear from this word study that the early church preached the same thing that Jesus preached. Our **Kingdom Physician** knows there is only one cure for sin – the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Prayer Emphasis: Seek to become proficient in the matter of explaining the gospel to others. **Practice** your presentation *privately,* and you will find it much easier to **preach** it *publicly*. The Bible clearly teaches that the responsibility of preaching the Gospel falls to every believer.

Day 12: Luke 4:1-15

"…'If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread…if You will worship before me, all will be Yours…If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here.'" (Luke 4:3, 7, & 9)

"If"

While Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record the fact that Jesus was tempted in the wilderness after He had fasted and prayed for 40 days, only Matthew and Luke record the detailed descriptions of the three ways in which Jesus was tempted. In both Matthew and Luke, we find the word "if" three times because each of the three temptations either questioned or challenged some truth from God's Word. As you review the focus verses once more, underscore or highlight the word "if" in your Bible and realize that it was the devil's intention to sow seeds of doubt into the mind of Christ while He was in this time of testing. Since we are told that Christ "was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15), we can conclude that the sum of these three "ifs" represented sin and temptation as a whole. Each of Satan's three "if" statements contained some truth from God's Word. However, each statement was not complete or within the context of God's Word. To each "if" statement, Christ responded with an accurate quotation from the Word of God. Satan cannot and will not be defeated by wit or will power. He cannot be resisted in our own strength. He deceived Eve in the Garden, and his desire is to deceive believers today. Get in the Word and stay in the Word if you desire to avoid falling into any of his traps!

Prayer Emphasis: Learn from your tests and seek to always respond to temptation in a biblical manner. **Read** Psalm 119:11 right now and then **meditate** on it throughout your day. If you have not already done so, **memorize** this verse of Scripture and store it away for your own times of temptation. Our **Kingdom Physician** teaches us that only God's Word can strengthen us in our times of testing and temptation.

Day 13: Luke 4:16-30

"He said to them, 'You will surely say this proverb to Me, "Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country."'" (Luke 4:23)

"Physician"

Today's focus verse contains the word from whence this devotional guide gets its name. In His response to the question about His being "Joseph's son," Jesus refers to Himself by using the term "Physician." This word is found only seven times in the New Testament. Six of those times it is found in the Gospels with three of those six times being found in the Gospel of Luke. The term that Jesus used here is the same term that was used to refer to a fully trained medical practitioner. In both Mark and Luke (Luke 8:43) we read about a woman who had an issue of blood and how she spent all her money on "physicians." In both of those accounts we are told that this woman had not been helped by her physicians, and Mark goes on to say that her condition had worsened while she was under their care! You know the rest of the story! After just one moment of contact with the **Kingdom Physician**, this woman was made well. Outside the Gospels, this word is found only once in the remainder of the New Testament. It was affectionately used in Colossians 4:14 where the Apostle Paul referred to the writer of the Gospel story that we are currently reading as "Luke the beloved physician!"

Prayer Emphasis: Praise God for sending His Son to be our spiritual, emotional, mental, and, even physical healer! **Pray** for someone who is experiencing health issues today and **let them know** that you have prayed for them.

Day 14: Luke 4:31-44

"When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them." (Luke 4:40)

"He…Healed Them!"

Although we are sure the first recorded miracle performed by Jesus was the turning of the water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee (John 2), there is some difference of opinion as to which was His first miracle of *healing* recorded in the Bible. We at least know that today's Scripture reading includes the first healing miracles recorded in the Gospel of Luke. We first saw the word that is translated "healed" in today's focus verse in the 23rd verse of this chapter, and, in that context, it was used to describe an actual physician healing a patient. One can only imagine the interest and excitement with which Dr. Luke wrote about these first healing miracles. In Luke's Gospel, the first recorded healing miracle is that of Peter's mother-in-law. After that incident involving the very private healing of one individual, Luke then stated that "all those who had any that were sick" brought them to Jesus and "He laid His hands on every one of them and *healed* them." However, today's reading includes three times of healing. Verses 31 through 37 record Jesus *healing* a man from demonic possession. Immediately after that, verses 38 and 39 record the *healing* of Peter's mother-in-law. Then verse 40 states that Jesus *healed* people from "various diseases."

Prayer Emphasis: While we must **realize** that our **Kingdom Physician** came into this world primarily to cure man's sin problem, we must also **recognize** that He also came to deal with mankind's mental and physical problems as well. **Mention** Jesus to some needy soul today!

Day 15: Luke 5:1-16

"So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret," (Luke 5:1)

"Pressed About"

Today's focus verse is the first place where the word for "pressed upon" is found in the New Testament. Verse one informs us that the people (multitudes of people) "pressed about" Jesus so that they might "hear the word of God." How exciting it is to see that the *first* time this word is used in Luke states that the reason given for this great crowd that gathered was so they could hear Jesus as He was teaching of the Word of God. As the ministry of Jesus grew, and the news of His miracles spread throughout the land, many people began to come to see Him for other reasons. In John 6:26, Jesus clearly stated that many of those who came seeking him came "because (they) ate of the loaves and were filled." Just as it was for Jesus, so it is for those who desire to serve Him through His church today. There are many people who come for selfish reasons and who are more interested in what the church can do for them *physically* than *spiritually*. The first, and foremost, purpose of the church is the teaching and preaching of the Word of God. Jesus brought a new perspective to God's Word in the sense that He could explain it with accuracy and authority. People were hungry to hear God's Word preached with accuracy and authority in those days, and I am sure they still hunger for it today!

Prayer Emphasis: Believe that people still *need* and *desire* to hear truth from God's Word. **Realize** that what people really need to hear is not what *we think* but what *God says*! **Pray** for your pastor, and all pastors, that they will boldly declare God's Word with accuracy and authority.

Day 16: Luke 5:17-32

"'I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.'" (Luke 5:32)

An Unusual Situation

On Day 13 I mentioned that the word that is translated "physician" was included in Luke 4:23 and again in Luke 8:43 in the story of the woman who was miraculously healed from a long-term illness. The mention in 4:23 was the first time this Greek word was used in Luke while the mention in 8:43 was the third and final time this word is found in Luke. In between, in Luke 5:31, we find the only other time this word is used in the Gospel of Luke. Just as we recognized that this word was used to identify people who were trained medical practitioners in the story of the healing of the woman with a *physical* need, so must we clearly recognize that this same word is now used to identify our need for *spiritual* healing. Our **Kingdom Physician** came primarily to bring healing to man's spiritual needs. Although we saw the English word "sick" earlier in Luke, this is the first time it was translated from this particular Greek word. This same Greek word is found in only one other place in Luke and that is when the centurion's servant was said to be "sick and ready to die" (7:2) So, when Jesus stated that He had not "come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance" He was clearly stating that *spiritual* sickness is just as real, if not more real, than *physical* sickness.

Prayer Emphasis: Believe that Jesus can make an *immediate* and *permanent* difference in the lives of people today! **Seek** to refer others to the Great Physician at every opportunity. **Develop** strategies to introduce Christ into various conversations and situations that are afforded you daily.

Day 17: Luke 5:33-6:11

"But they were filled with rage, and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus." (Luke 6:11)

Some "Sabbath Situations"

Today's reading may be found in the New Testament, but it sure deals with what many people consider to be some Old Testament matters. The closing verses of chapter five deal with fasting, while the first verses in chapter six deal with two situations regarding the Sabbath. The first "Sabbath Situation" arose because, as they followed Jesus through a grain field on a Sabbath, some of "His disciples plucked the heads of grain and ate them" (v. 1). This action caused the Pharisees to ask an interesting question. In verse two, they asked Jesus, "Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?" I find that question to be interesting because the Scripture never states that Jesus was plucking grain and eating it. In fact, the Scripture clearly states that *His disciples* were plucking and eating the grain! (A lesson to be learned here is that our actions are often a reflection on our Lord!) The second "Sabbath Situation" arose because Jesus chose to heal a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath. In this situation, the Pharisees never had the chance to complain about what Jesus was doing before He responded to what He knew they were thinking! When Jesus mentioned "doing good" on the Sabbath, He was referring to such priestly activities as the circumcision of a child on the commanded eighth day (John 7:23). If the priest was commanded to circumcise on the eighth day after a child's birth, and the eighth day fell on a Sabbath, then the priest would not violate the command to circumcise in a timely manner in order to honor the Sabbath. If an earthly priest would not delay his spiritual duties because of the Sabbath, neither would the highest Priest of all!

Prayer Emphasis: Avoid the temptation to be critical and judgmental of others. **Realize** that our **Kingdom Physician** specializes in treating and curing critical attitudes and judgmental dispositions!

Day 18: Luke 6:12-26

"Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:" (Luke 6:12-13)

Opposites!

Our Scripture begins with Jesus on a mountain praying "all night" to God. It then tells us, "when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles." The next verses include the names of the 12 disciples that Jesus "also named as apostles." Verse 12 tells us that Jesus was on a "mountain", and He called the disciples to come up to where He was! Immediately after these 12 men were called to be apostles, Jesus began to involve them in His ministry to the "great multitude of people…who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases" (v. 17). However, these men, and others that heard Him, must have been surprised at His first recorded public sermon. In that sermon, He included a lot of statements that were just the opposite of what most people would think. He spoke about the "poor" being "blessed" and the hungry being "filled!" He talked about "rejoicing" when they were "hated!" But, as we read on, we can see that it was also going to be just the opposite for those who thought themselves to be rich, happy, or full according to this world's standards.

Prayer Emphasis: Learn to measure success by God's standards! **Note** the "woes" that are listed in verses 24 through 26 and see if they are not different than anything this world would teach you!

Day 19: Luke 6:27-42

"'Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.'" (Luke 6:36)

A Very Unique Quality

In our focus verse we see the word "merciful" twice. There are only three places in the New Testament where we are commanded to show this kind of mercy, and two of those three times are in our focus verse. It is important to see that Jesus clearly commanded people to be merciful to others and to do so by showing people the same kind of mercy that He had shown them. The only other place where we find this word for "merciful" in the Bible is in James 5:11 where we read, "… the *Lord* is very compassionate and *merciful*." That verse echoes the latter part of our focus verse. How much more clearly can God declare His expectations about the way we are to treat people? Verse 31 teaches us, "Just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise." We have declared that to be the "Golden Rule." Verse 36 helps us to know how we can treat people the way God desires. God can use the words of today's focus verse to plant a wonderful seed in our hearts and minds. That being, that there are some ways He will help us to be like Him and one of the wonderful qualities He can introduce into our lives is the ability to treat people just as He would treat them – *mercifully*.

Prayer Emphasis: Realize that our **Kingdom Physician** sometimes cures what "ails us" by helping us to learn what might cure the spiritual "ails" of others! **Seek** out an opportunity to be merciful to someone today! **Ask** God to supply you with a prescription for some "mercy" today.

Day 20: Luke 6:43-7:10

"And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick." (Luke 7:10)

Some Medical Terminology

It is difficult to write a brief, one paragraph devotion based on today's Scripture. To expound on any one of these wonderful verses would take pages and here we are restricted to just one paragraph. Since our devotional theme is **Kingdom Physician**, I am going to limit my comments to the first part of chapter seven and the story of the healing of the centurion's servant, giving special attention to the word "well" or "whole," depending on your translation. Some translations translate this word as "healthy" or "in good health." This particular word is found three times in Luke's Gospel (5:31, 7:10, and 15:27) and then nowhere else in the remainder of the New Testament. The word is interesting to me because Luke, a trained physician, was the only Gospel writer to use this word. Since the Holy Spirit is the one who guided each writer of the Bible, it occurred to me that the Holy Spirit knows exactly how to communicate with each Christian in a way that will allow each of us to clearly understand God's will for our lives and to most clearly explain it to others. Today's word "well" is not the only medical term that is mentioned only in Luke. In the same sense, there are some financial terms mentioned in Matthew (the tax collector) that are particular to that Gospel and there is some fishing terminology that is found only in the Gospel of John, which was written by a fisherman.

Prayer Emphasis: Read your Bible faithfully and **ask** God to speak to you in terms that you can clearly understand. **Remember**, there is nothing wrong with admitting that you do not understand something or going to God and asking for help! **Trust** the Holy Spirit to do His job, and He will surely guide you into all truth!

Day 21: Luke 7:11-28

"Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, 'Young man, I say to you, arise.'" (Luke 7:14)

A Very Special "Touch"

Our focus verse includes a special word that introduces us to an incredibly special teaching about Jesus. Luke was only led of the Holy Spirit to use this word in the recording of seven events in the life of Christ. Of these seven events mentioned by Luke, only three of them describe a situation where Jesus was the one doing the touching. One would do well to research all the situations where it is recorded that Jesus "touched" someone, but a brief review of how this word is used in this Gospel will be enough to prove that His touch was, indeed, a very special touch! First, we note that *our Lord's touch was a defiant touch*! In Luke chapter five, he "touched" a leper and here in today's reading He "touched" the coffin in which the body of a dead man lay. Both "touches" would have rendered one spiritually unclean in the eyes of those who adhered to the strictest interpretations of the Law! Second, we see that *our Lord's touch was a delivering touch*! In Luke five one man was delivered from disease while here, another man is delivered from death. The last "touch" of Christ recorded by Luke (22:51) finds Malchus being healed because Jesus took the time to "touch" and heal his ear after Peter cut it off in the garden! Finally, in between the stories already mentioned, we find a story that causes us to see that *our Lord's touch was a desired touch*! When we get to Luke 18, we will read of those who brought their children to Jesus desiring that He would "touch" them!

Prayer Emphasis: Admit it! Christians are a bit "touched!" **Seek** to have the **Kingdom Physician's** "touch" on your heart and **share** His "touch" with others every day!

Day 22: Luke 7:29-48

"'The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, "Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!" But wisdom is justified by all her children!'" (Luke 7:34-35)

Christian "Friendship"

The word that is translated "friend" in Luke 7:34 is found in 21 stories recorded in the Gospels, and 14 of those stories are recorded in Luke! It is apparent that Dr. Luke was extremely interested in the incredibly special kind of relationship that this word represents for the believer. Although we have already read several places where our **Kingdom Physician** has been a friend to many, I purposely waited until we reached this place in the Scriptures to expound some on Christian "friendship." True Christian "friendship" is about *provision*. In Luke 11:5 through 8 we see a "friend" who provided bread to someone in a time of desperate need. Next, we find Jesus teaching that Christian "friendship" speaks of *protection*. In Luke 12:4 Jesus told His followers they need "not be afraid" of those who could bring them bodily harm. An even closer look at how this word was used by the **Kingdom Physician** reveals that this kind of "friendship" has much to do with *placement* when we see that a "friend" is called to sit at a "higher" place at a wedding feast in Luke 14:10. But, perhaps the most important point about Christian "friendship" is made in Luke 15:6 and 9 where we see this word associated with *praise* as we are told about the "rejoicing" of the shepherd who found his lost sheep and the woman who recovered her lost coin.

Prayer Emphasis: Practice true Christian "friendship" in all your relationships. **Seek** to be one who meets the spiritual and physical needs of others. **Praise** God for every opportunity to serve Him!

Day 23: Luke 7:49-8:10

"'But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.' When He had said these things He cried, 'He who has ears to hear, let him hear!'" (Luke 8:8)

"Good Ground!"

While the parable found in Luke 8:4 through10 is most often referred to as "The Parable of the Sower," it is also a parable about seeds and soils. In tomorrow's Scriptural explanation of this parable, we will see that "the seed is the Word of God" (8:11). In that same explanation, Jesus will also reveal that the soil represented the "hearts" of those who heard the Word of God (8:12)! However, today's devotional will help us understand an especially important teaching from God's Word that will serve as a source of great encouragement to those who desire to reach others for Christ. In this story we are told about four conditions of the human hearts of those who hear the Word of God. Of those four conditions, only one (25%) of those who "heard" God's Word allowed for the kind of spiritual growth that resulted in good fruit in the lives of the hearers. We are often discouraged because everyone who hears God's Word does not make the kind of commitment to which He calls them. In this story we are taught that, even though we faithfully share God's Word with others, only about 25% of those with whom we share it will make the kind of commitment that will lead to true Christian fruit in their lives. But who among us would not be thrilled if every fourth person to whom we witnessed about Christ would become the kind of committed follower that is described in Luke 8:8?

Prayer Emphasis: Become the kind of committed Christian that will **sow** God's Word to as many hearts as possible even though you know that not everyone is going to make a true commitment to Christ!

Day 24: Luke 8:11-25

"'But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.'" (Luke 8:15)

"Keeping" God's Word

After reading about the four distinct kinds of soils (hearts) that were described in the Parable of the Sower, we now learn what makes the difference in the hearts of those who ultimately become the kinds of followers who "bear fruit." Only those who "keep" God's Word will become the kind of follower that truly exhibit a life that has been radically redeemed by the **Kingdom Physician**. The word that is translated "keep" in our focus verse is a word that means to "hold fast or to keep firm possession" of something. While it is possible that all four types of hearts that are described in the Parable of the Sower may have truly been saved, it is clear that only one was committed enough to truly serve! The believer who grows to be a true servant will be the person who "keeps" a firm hold on the teaching of God's Word and will not allow the enemy, or the various distractions and attractions of this world, to choke out the kind of growth that God wants to produce in their lives. This word that is translated "keep" in the NKJV and other translations is also translated "hold it fast" or "hold on to it" in other versions of the New Testament. Notice that the kind of Christian that will "keep" God's Word to the point of following Christ will be the Christian who exhibits "patience" (8:15) in their efforts to grow into all that God has for them.

Prayer Emphasis: Realize that all believers are called into *fellowship* with Christ (salvation) but only those who patiently hold fast to God's Word will truly answer the call to *followship* (service).

Day 25: Luke 8:26-39

"'Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.' And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him." (Luke 8:39)

A Story About "A Real Keeper!"

The last verse in the story of the man who was possessed by a "legion" of demons helps us understand more fully what we earlier discussed about being a *keeper* of God's Word. There are several evidences in the story of this man's conversion that cause us to identify him as being one who *kept* God's Word! First, this man's life *was marked by the departure of his demons*. Verse 38 defines him as "the man from whom the demons had *departed*." He who had once been "bound with chains and shackles" (v. 29) was now completely set free from the bondage to which his demons once held him. A second evidence of this man being a true "keeper" is found in *his desire and determination to be with Jesus*. Verse 38 also tells us that this man "begged Him (Jesus) that he might be with Him." The word that is translated "begged" here is translated "pray," "beseech," or "make request" in other places in the New Testament. His "desire" was to be "with Him" Who had made such a radical change in his life. Those who *keep* God's Word, and patiently grow thereby, are those who choose to spend time with Jesus and who desire to be "with Him." Finally, this man's life was obviously *marked with a devotion to obedience*. After the Lord's command to "return" to his "own house and tell what great things God (had) done for him," "he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him."

Prayer Emphasis: Note that, even though this new Christian did not get "*his* way" when he asked to go with Jesus, he still went "*His* way" and obeyed the command of Christ!

Day 26: Luke 8:40-56

"And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house," (Luke 8:41)

A Different Kind of "Begging"

A look at the original language in which the New Testament was written teaches us that the "begging" Jairus did when he asked the Lord to heal his daughter was an entirely different type of "begging" than the once demon-possessed man did when he "begged" Jesus to let him go with Him. The "begging" done by the man who had been freed from his demon possession, came from a word that expressed his *desire* to be with Jesus, while the "begging" of the father mentioned in today's story comes from a word that expressed his *desperation* to have his child healed. While the story of the demon-possessed man indicates that we do not always receive *what we desire from the Lord*, the story of this distraught father helps us see that we often receive *what we desperately need from Him*. Just as we mentioned earlier in our devotional about the Lord "touching" the coffin of the widow's dead son, a special "touch" is also a central part of today's lesson. Upon reaching the home of the sick girl, and being told that she was dead, the Lord "took her by the hand" before telling her to "arise" (v. 54). The phrase "her spirit returned" (v. 55) is a clear indication that she had indeed been dead. Even though her parents were "astonished" at this (v.56) we should never be surprised by what Jesus can do – even in the most desperate situations!

Prayer Emphasis: Pray for the well-being of your children! **Believe** that the **Kingdom Physician** is the only One who can provide for their *physical* and *spiritual* needs.

Day 27: Luke 9:1-17

"Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases." (Luke 9:1)

"Ability" and "Authority"

The word that is translated "power" in our focus verse is a word that denotes *ability*. When Jesus "sent" His disciples "to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick" (v. 2), He did so after providing them with the necessary means to do it. Those of us who desire to be true ministers of God can be assured that our **Kingdom Physician** will also provide all that we need to be fully obedient to His commands. Along with His "power" (ability), the Lord also granted them His "*authority*." Luke has more to say about this "power and authority" than any other Gospel writer. As a man trained as a "physician" (Colossians 4:14), Dr. Luke was probably well aware of a doctor's limited ability to bring healing in every situation. However, his repeated references to the "power and authority" that the Lord provided for His disciples must have made a lasting impression on his life. We must remind ourselves that Luke was not one of the original disciples and he was possibly saved, or at least called to full-time service, under the ministry of the Apostle Paul. Whether or not Luke was saved under Paul's ministry remains uncertain, but the fact that he entered the ministry under Paul's leadership is quite clear from Luke's own record in Acts 16. Verse two of today's reading clearly indicates that our "ability" and "authority" to help others is associated with our willingness to "preach the kingdom of God" to those that we encounter along our way.

Prayer Emphasis: Spend time in God's Word and you will experience the presence of Christ in your ministry to others. Nothing empowers the Christian for service more than daily doses of God's Word.

Day 28: Luke 9:18-36

"And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, 'Who do the crowds say that I am?'" (Luke 9:18)

"Alone"

How sad it is to study about the times that Jesus was said to be "alone" and realize that many of those times were times when He was praying! Matthew 14:23 first introduced us to this sad truth when we read that, "Jesus went up on the mountain *by Himself* to pray" and that "He was *alone* there." Mark 6:46 and 47 tells us that, after Jesus instructed His disciples to go by boat to Bethsaida, "He departed to the mountain to pray…and (again) He was *alone…*". John's record of this same event also mentions that Jesus was "*alone*" as He prayed (John 6:15). Perhaps there was no sadder indication of how Jesus was often left *alone* in prayer than when He, while earnestly praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, returned to find His disciples sleeping (Luke 22:44-45). However, while it is made abundantly clear in the Scriptures that man often left Christ alone during His days on this earth, it is abundantly clear that He was never once left *alone* by His Heavenly Father. In John 16:32, Jesus told His disciples that, "Indeed the hour is coming…that you will be scattered…and will leave Me *alone*. And yet I am not *alone*, because the Father is with Me."

Prayer Emphasis: Although we often describe our prayer time as "being alone with God," we should **realize** that we are never truly "alone" after inviting Christ into our lives. **Join** Him in some prayer time today!

Day 29: Luke 9:37-48

"And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child and set him by Him," (Luke 9:47)

"A Little Child"

In most English translations you will read the word "child" four times in the verses that we read today. The first two times that it is used is in the story of the man with the sick child whom Jesus healed. In that situation, the word rendered "child" is the same word that is used to describe the widow's son that was raised from the dead in Luke chapter 7 and the 12-year-old daughter of Jairus that we read about in Luke chapter 8. The other times that we saw the word "child" in today's reading (vs. 47-48) it meant a "little child." While some translations simply say "child" in these verses, they translate this same word "little child" or "young child" in 20 other places. The Lord used a "little child" as an object lesson to teach His disciples about humility after He overheard them arguing about who was the greatest. Two lessons were to come from Christ using the "little child." The disciples were taught something about *peace*. Peace reigns best where pride reigns least. If they could learn to avoid pride, they could more likely learn how to have peace among themselves. An additional lesson is found in Matthew's record of the same event. There we find that Jesus, while using the "little child" to help Him teach about peace, also used the same opportunity to teach His disciples something about *protection* by stating that those who harmed one of His "little children" would have to answer directly to Him!

Prayer Emphasis: Understand that our **Kingdom Physician** can prescribe peace and protection to His children. **Humble** yourself like a "little child" under His protective care today.

Day 30: Luke 9:49-62

"…'But he said, 'Lord, let me first go and bury my father.' …And another also said, 'Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.'" (Luke 9:59 & 61)

"Me First!"

In my opinion, two of the saddest words in the Bible are recorded in the response of the men mentioned in Luke 9:59 and 61! The last section of today's Scripture deals with three unnamed individuals who all responded to the Lord in different ways. Each one of them made verbal commitments to follow Christ, while two of them clearly indicated they would do so, but only on a "me first" basis! One said, "Lord, let *me first* go and bury my father" while the second said, "Lord…let *me first* go and bid them farewell who are at my house." We should not think that Jesus was prohibiting the first man from attending his father's funeral because we know that the man was really saying, "Lord, when my earthly father is dead and gone, *then* I will obey my heavenly Father!" In the same sense, the second man was not being forbidden the opportunity to say a final farewell to his family because the Lord knew that this man was actually saying, "Lord, after I have pleased all of the other relationships in my life, *then* I will seek to please you!" How sad it is to realize that our **Kingdom Physician** still receives such responses from those who verbally pledge their loyalty to Him today. God's churches are filled with people who are going to serve the Lord "one day" or "someday." Even though the Holy Spirit chose to not reveal the names of these two men, you can rest assured that their "me first" attitude serves as a lesson to all Christ followers.

Prayer Emphasis: Refuse to serve the Lord on a "me first" basis. **Meditate** on Matthew 6:33 today and **practice** "Seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" in your daily walk.

Day 31: Luke 10:1-16

"And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades." (Luke 10:15)

The "Capernaum Syndrome"

I can vividly recall spending a full year travelling around the country preaching sermons from Matthew's account of what Jesus stated in today's focus verse! Where Luke states that Jesus included Capernaum among some cities that Jesus upbraided for their lack of repentance and respect for His Words and ministry, Matthew more fully explains the issues for which Capernaum was criticized. In Matthew 11:23, Jesus stated, "And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day." While many of us associate certain cities in the Bible with the life of Christ, we seldom think of Capernaum as one of them. However, the New Testament clearly teaches that Jesus once lived in Capernaum and treated it as the center of His earthly ministry. In Matthew 4:13, we read that "leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum." Later, in Matthew 9:1, Capernaum is referred to as "His own city." It was in Capernaum that the man was brought to Jesus on a cot and lowered down through the roof so that he could be healed. And we should remember that in Luke 4:23 Jesus supposed that those who desired to see miracles probably wanted Him to duplicate what they had "heard done in Capernaum." How sad it is that often those who are most blessed have a tendency to take those blessings for granted!

Prayer Emphasis: Pay attention to all that God is doing in your life and **refuse** to take His blessings for granted! **Express** praise and appreciation to God on a regular basis.

Day 32: Luke 10:17-37

"…'Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen it…'" (Luke 10:23-24)

Wisdom and Warning

When we consider what the disciples overheard Jesus saying about Capernaum, it might be that they possibly heard Him saying "Ditto!" when He spoke the words recorded in our focus verses to them. In a private session with His disciples, Jesus spoke to them with words of wisdom and warning. The wisdom was to be found in their realizing how privileged they were to be under His personal teaching, involved in His personal ministry, and exposed to all that they were seeing and hearing as He travelled among the cities and villages preaching the Gospel and healing people! It is always wise when Christians remain mindful of just how "blessed" they are. Even though the Greek word found here is most often translated "blessed" there are some places in the New Testament where it is translated "happy." And, according to what Jesus is saying here, those who follow Him have great reason for considering themselves to be "blessed" and for being "happy." Carefully note that Jesus did not just say that they were seeing things that "prophets and kings…desired to see" but that "*many* prophets and kings" had desired to see the reality of what they were experiencing every day of their lives! How sad it is when we fail to understand how blessed we are to be living in this age of the New Testament church!

Prayer Emphasis: Enjoy being a part of the New Testament church age and having the full knowledge of God that comes from reading and studying the Word of God. Our **Kingdom Physician** knows that a daily dose of expressed *appreciation* will cause our blessings to *appreciate* in value to us!

Day 33: Luke 10:38-11:13

"So He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'" (Luke 11:2-4)

A Model for Prayer

As we read the words found in our focus verses, we must remember that Jesus was not telling the disciples that they were to recite this prayer every time they prayed, but, rather, they were to follow this specific pattern if they wanted something to help them pray in a more organized and orderly way. When I was a young Christian, my pastor taught me to pray by using an amazingly simple memory tool. He suggested that I think about ACTS when I prayed and remember to begin with **A**doration, then follow that time of praise with a time of **C**onfession and **T**hanksgiving before mentioning my **S**upplications (requests) to God. You might outline the model that Jesus gave to His disciples in this way: **Praise** – "Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name." **Purpose** – "Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." **Provision** – "Give us day by day our daily bread." **Pardon** – "And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us." And **Protection** – "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

Prayer Emphasis: Commit time to prayer on a daily basis. **Seek** to pray in an organized fashion and **use** any tool available that will help you to **stay on track** in your conversations with God. **Pray** specifically for someone today and then **let them know** that you have done so.

Day 34: Luke 11:14-28

"But He said, 'More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!'" (Luke 11:28)

A Not-So-Secret Formula for Blessing

I used the phrase *Not So Secret* in this devotion title because of the numerous times in the Gospels that our **Kingdom Physician** prescribed "hearing" and "keeping" His Word for those who truly desire to experience His greatest blessings in their lives. Both the "hear" and the "keep" come from the same root word that means much the same as the words "hear" and "keep" that Jesus used in the Parable of the Sower. If you remember that parable in Luke 8, Jesus spoke of the believers that became fruitful and identified them as those who "having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience" (Luke 8:15). And do you recall what we read in Luke 6:47 and 48? There Jesus revealed this formula for success when He said, "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock." Time will not allow me to cite or quote every place where Jesus urged His believers to employ this formula in their quest for spiritual development and success. Just be advised that what the **Kingdom Physician** prescribed for spiritual success on that day is exactly the same thing He prescribes for those who follow Him today.

Prayer Emphasis: Read your Bible! **Remember** this saying: "What you do with the Bible will determine what God can do with you!" **Use** your Bible and see if you do not soon find God using you!

Day 35: Luke 11:29-41

"And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He began to say, 'This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet.'" (Luke 11:29)

"The Sign of Jonah"

When Jesus said that the people were seeking "a sign," He was saying that, even after all they had seen and heard, they were still demanding proof that He was Who He declared Himself to be. Jesus warned them that there was a soon-to-come "sign" that would bear evidence to Who He was and why He came into the world. The sign that He was speaking of was "the sign of Jonah the prophet." Anyone who has any familiarity at all with the Bible will recall that Jonah was the prophet who was once swallowed up in death but then delivered by the mighty power of God! After that prophet was raised from the belly of the whale, he went to the godless city of Nineveh, and the entire city repented after hearing his message. There is no question but that Jesus is here foretelling His own death, burial, and resurrection and declaring it to be the ultimate proof that He truly is the Son of God! His comparing the Pharisees with the people of Nineveh must have been quite offensive to them. They, no doubt, must have realized that He was clearly saying that the people of Nineveh (heathens in the eyes of the Jews) repented of their evil ways (Jonah 3:4-10) while the Pharisees continued in their unbelief despite being eyewitnesses to the miracles of Jesus.

Prayer Emphasis: Cease to be a sign *seeker* and **begin** to be a sign *speaker* as you learn to witness about Christ and His saving power! While not everyone will believe, you can be sure that some will!

Day 36: Luke 11:42-54

"'But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.'" (Luke 11:42)

Jesus Endorsed Tithing!

It is often stated that tithing was an Old Testament responsibility. However, today's focus verse is, in full, a direct quotation of Jesus. If you are reading from a "red letter edition" (where every direct quote from Christ is printed in red) then you have read "red" words in most of today's Scripture reading, and nothing but red words in verse 42. In our day of sound bites and putting a spin on what people have said, one often notices that some reports are based entirely on phrases that have been taken completely out of context. However, there is a particularly important phrase in today's reading that many people seem to read over and never really notice. As Jesus was speaking to the Pharisees about the meticulous attention they paid to adhering to the Law, He mentioned the careful attention that they paid to making sure they tithed (gave a tenth) on everything they possessed. They were careful even to give a tenth of their spices! Jesus found it amazing that people could be that disciplined about giving and yet fail to fully obey God's teachings on "justice and the love of God." When it came to the matter of being careful about giving the full tenth to God, Jesus said, "These you *ought to have done*" and then added "without leaving the others undone." The **Kingdom Physician** was clearly stating that the Pharisees should continue to faithfully tithe but their tithing was not going to buy their way out of obeying God fully in other areas of spiritual importance.

Prayer Emphasis: Thank God for your income! **Ask** Him to help you manage your money in such a way that you can honor Him faithfully with the tithe and still have some to give offerings to other special needs.

Day 37: Luke 12:1-12

"'Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God.'" (Luke 12:6)

The "5th" Sparrow?

Luke 12:6 begins with Jesus asking a question and concludes with Him making a very definite statement. The question was, "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins?" The question establishes the value that the people of New Testament times placed on a sparrow. When you consider Matthew 10:29, and the fact that there we are told, "two sparrows sold for a (one) copper coin," then you must assume that an extra sparrow was thrown in for good measure when you bought four. As such, you might say that the "5th" sparrow was free, and would, therefore, seem to have no value at all. In a sense, God is telling us that He places immense value on things (or people) that we assume have no value. I recently read that sparrows were the cheapest thing sold in the ancient marketplace. Considering the fact that the coin that was required to purchase two of them was the smallest coin minted by the Roman government, and it also was the coin of the lowest value of all the coins mentioned in the Bible, we have to assume that statement to be true. The Lord's concluding statement was, "And not one of them is forgotten before God." What is the **Kingdom Physician** trying to tell us here? I think He wants us to know that He places great value on even the "5th" sparrow that was thrown in for free and He is always mindful of its needs. Certainly, we can rest assured that He also sees great value in each and every one of us!

Prayer Emphasis: Read Psalm 50:10-11; 113:5-6; 145:16; and 147:9 and see how much God cares for all His creatures. **Consider** the sin debt that He paid for us and **believe** that we are of great value to Him.

Day 38: Luke 12:13-23

"Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: 'The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, "What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?" (Luke 12:16-17)

A Real "I" Problem!

Take the time to count the "I's" and "my's" in the parable of the man who was cursed with what I call "The Bigger Barn Syndrome." In the NKJV you will find the pronoun "I" six times. Since the number six is strongly associated with man throughout the New Testament, we have to assume that the kind of self-centeredness that is described here may be something to which all mankind may be susceptible. Every time I read these verses, I always remember the rebellious words that were uttered by Satan just before his fall. They are found in Isaiah 14:13-14: "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High." The "I" mentality brought nothing but ruin for Lucifer, and we can rest assured that it could also lead to our ruin. The repeated usage of the pronoun "my" helps us see how easy it is for anyone to think that we can claim ownership to the things of this world. The Bible clearly teaches us that we are only stewards of our material possessions, and it all really belongs to God. As such, to think that "I" can make decisions about what to do with "my" material possessions without consulting God is a very arrogant and prideful thing to do.

Prayer Emphasis: Ask the **Kingdom Physician** to cure your "I" problems at your next appointment! **Invite** God to be your business partner and **include** Him in all your financial endeavors.

Day 39: Luke 12:24-44

"'Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys.'" (Luke 12:33)

"A Treasure in the Heavens"

It is possible that the word "treasure" is one of the most misunderstood words in the Bible. The reference here is not simply to money, or other things of material value, but to the coffers or chests in which they were safely stored. For instance, the first time this word is used in the New Testament is in Matthew 2:11. There we read that the Magi entered the house where the infant Jesus lived, and after "they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him". In Matthew 12:35, Jesus spoke of how "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things." The implication here is clearly that the "treasure" was the man's heart and the "good things" were things kept in that treasury. In Matthew 13:52, Jesus taught about "a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old." In today's focus verse, the phrase "a treasure in the heavens" speaks of the container that holds the treasure and not the treasure itself. The Lord wanted people to understand that the things we give to Him are safely kept for us in Heaven. Is your heavenly "Treasure Chest" empty or full?

Prayer Emphasis: Give faithfully to God's work and **invest** your money in eternal things. **Visualize** everything that you give to God as being stored up for you in Heaven.

Day 40: Luke 12:45-59

"'Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three.'" (Luke 12:51-52)

"Division"

It must have been quite a surprise when Jesus stated that He had not come to "give peace on earth," "but rather division!" And the extent of the division which He stated He was going to bring must have been quite shocking! The division that He was going to bring was going to rock even the greatest stronghold of all creation – the family! The fact that He stated that this division would cause "three against two" and "two against three" gives us the idea that those who closely followed Jesus were going to find that they would probably have some irreconcilable differences with others. I can imagine no closer bond than that of a father and his son or a mother and her daughter. However, Jesus stated that "Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother" (v. 53). Typically, the closest human bonds are found within the family. Since our faith in Christ requires that our ultimate allegiance be to Him, there can be no allegiance to any other person that might challenge our faithfulness to Him. One cannot help but notice that there will be division between authority figures (fathers and mothers) and those who should be subject to them (sons and daughters). Jesus was clearly warning that a time was coming when there would have to be clear cut decisions about whether His follower's relationship to Him was of more importance than any other relationship in life. It was a tough decision for those who lived in that day, and it remains a tough decision even now.

Prayer Emphasis: Thank you for reading this first part of Luke with us. Our prayer is that you have been blessed through the reading of God's Word. Please contact us at **gary@seminolebc.com** and learn how you can have a personal relationship with the **Kingdom Physician**!