



# KINGDOM PHYSICIAN

## PART 2

Forty Daily Devotionals  
from Luke 13-24  
(Based on the NKJV)

## Introduction

It is my prayer that you have enjoyed reading through the first 12 chapters of Luke and that you will find the remaining chapters to be a blessing as well. Luke and Acts are the two longest books in the New Testament, and we know that Luke authored them both. There is much information to be found in Luke that is not found in any of the other gospels or anywhere else in the New Testament. There are approximately 558 verses of Scripture in Luke that contain information that we do not read elsewhere! To put that in perspective, that is more verses than are found in all of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians combined! Luke mentions marginalized people more than any other Gospel writer. He writes of shepherds, widows, lepers, children and women more than any of the others, and he also mentions the Holy Spirit more than any other Gospel writer. Please enjoy yourself as you allow Dr. Luke to share with you more of the things that he was taught by the “eyewitnesses” who walked with Jesus!

## Daily Reading Schedule

Day	Scripture Reading	Date
1	Luke 13:1-13	4/18/20
2	Luke 13:14-26	4/19/20
3	Luke 13:27-35	4/20/20
4	Luke 14:1-14	4/21/20
5	Luke 14:15-24	4/22/20
6	Luke 14:25-35	4/23/20
7	Luke 15:1-14	4/24/20
8	Luke 15:15-32	4/25/20
9	Luke 16:1-13	4/26/20
10	Luke 16:14-31	4/27/20
11	Luke 17:1-10	4/28/20
12	Luke 17:11-23	4/29/20
13	Luke 17:24-37	4/30/20
14	Luke 18:1-14	5/1/20
15	Luke 18:15-30	5/2/20
16	Luke 18:31-43	5/3/20
17	Luke 19:1-10	5/4/20
18	Luke 19:11-19	5/5/20
19	Luke 19:20-32	5/6/20
20	Luke 19:33-48	5/7/20

Day	Scripture Reading	Date
21	Luke 20:1-14	5/8/20
22	Luke 20:15-26	5/9/20
23	Luke 20:27-36	5/10/20
24	Luke 20:37-47	5/11/20
25	Luke 21:1-13	5/12/20
26	Luke 21:14-24	5/13/20
27	Luke 21:25-38	5/14/20
28	Luke 22:1-13	5/15/20
29	Luke 22:14-23	5/16/20
30	Luke 22:24-34	5/17/20
31	Luke 22:35-46	5/18/20
32	Luke 22:47-60	5/19/20
33	Luke 22:61-71	5/20/20
34	Luke 23:1-12	5/21/20
35	Luke 23:13-25	5/22/20
36	Luke 23:26-43	5/23/20
37	Luke 23:44-56	5/24/20
38	Luke 24:1-14	5/25/20
39	Luke 24:15-35	5/26/20
40	Luke 24:36-53	5/27/20

## Day 1: Luke 13:1-13

*“There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.” (Luke 13:1)*

### *An Important Lesson*

No details are provided about the Galileans who were killed while apparently offering their sacrifices to God. We are told that, at Pilate’s instruction, their own blood was “mingled” (mixed) with the blood from their offerings. Such brutality marks the kind of persecution that Pilate brought against the earliest followers of Christ. We are given no explanation why these particular Christians were chosen to suffer in such a horrible way. The Jews of that time commonly believed that all suffering came as a result of sin and God’s judgment upon it. Many Christians still hold to that belief today. Jesus responded to the report of this event with a question about some men who had died in an accident while building a tower in Siloam. Jesus asked if those men had died because they were worse sinners than others in that town. The answer was clear. People live and people die. Some die at a ripe old age and some die earlier in life. Life is filled with tragic stories of untimely deaths and unexplained calamities. The important lesson learned was that life in this world is temporary and fleeting and that people needed to heed God’s call to repentance so they could be prepared for eternal life. To be prepared they needed to repent and trust in God.

**Prayer Emphasis: Refuse** to believe that suffering is God’s way of punishing us for our sins. **Believe** that trials and tragedies come into every life and that they come to teach us the importance of being prepared to meet God. The **Kingdom Physician** wants us to know that the only cure for sin is repentance!

## Day 2: Luke 13:14-26

*“Then He said, ‘What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it?’... And again He said, ‘To what shall I liken the kingdom of God?’” (Luke 13:18 & 20)*

### *The “Kingdom of God”*

While God’s “kingdom” is often referred to in the Old Testament, we do not see the phrase the “kingdom of God” in the New Testament until we get to Matthew 6:33 where Jesus commands us to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.” We read the phrase, “the kingdom of God” 40 times in Luke’s writings and only 31 times in all of the other books of the New Testament combined. This fact gives us the idea that preparing to live in God’s kingdom was important to Dr. Luke! To best understand what Jesus was referring to when He mentioned the “kingdom of God,” we need to examine the words “like” and “liken.” Both of these words were often used when Jesus told a parable. A parable generally consisted of a story that Jesus told in order to help us to better understand His Word. In these two brief parables Jesus was offering His followers some insight into what the “kingdom of God” was “like.” In the sense that it was like the “mustard seed” that “grew and became a large tree,” we can see that Jesus might have been referring to the rapid, outward growth of His “kingdom.” The parable of the “leaven” might have been referring to a growth that was not visible to the eye. In either case, the Lord made it clear that His kingdom was to be growing and ongoing.

**Prayer Emphasis: Seek** the “kingdom of God” by allowing God’s authority in your life to be constantly growing! **Read** His Word daily and **spend time** in conversation with Him. Do not be afraid to **ask** Him to show you what the “kingdom of God” is “like” every time that you read His Word!

## Day 3: Luke 13:27-35

*“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together...but you were not willing!” (Luke 13:34)*

### **Repetition!**

I have often mentioned that repetition was used to imply emphasis in ancient writings. Since they had no **bold font**, *italics*, or underlining, repeating words or phrases became their way of emphasizing an important truth or teaching. Such was the case with Jesus crying out, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem” in our focus verse. However, there may be a form of repetition here that you may have never noticed. This same emphatic statement about Jerusalem is also found in Matthew 23:37. When you read that statement in Matthew, it is clear that the setting is *in* Jerusalem, after the Lord’s triumphant entry to that city, and during the final week of His life. In Luke, we are told that Jesus made this statement as He was journeying “*toward* Jerusalem” (Luke 13:22). It is entirely possible that what we have read today in Luke is a recording of a statement that Jesus repeated often. Since Jesus went from city to city preaching the Gospel, there is no question that He repeated many of His teachings and sayings. In the case of His powerful lamenting over Jerusalem, He may have not only repeated the name of His beloved city, but the same statement over and over again, revealing His passionate love for a city and for souls.

**Prayer Emphasis: Refuse** to give up on witnessing to your friends and family members! **Believe** that the next seed you sow may be the one that takes root and brings them to an understanding of God’s love and redemption plan. **Pray** for the salvation of some friend or loved one today.

## Day 4: Luke 14:1-14

*“And behold, there was a certain man before Him who had dropsy.” (Luke 14:2)*

### **“Dropsy”**

The word “dropsy” is found only this one time in the Bible. People knew very little about this disease in New Testament times and most people know little about it today. At least one translation simply states that this man had “a disease.” Other translations attempt to describe this disease by mentioning its symptoms. In them, you may read things like “abnormal swelling” or “swelling with fluid.” One translation simply uses our modern medical term “edema” to describe this man’s condition. The kind of fluid retention that was noticeable to the **Kingdom Physician** on this particular day could have been from swelling due to congestive heart failure or failure of the kidneys. One medical report states, “The real cause of dropsy, however, is abnormal accumulation of morbid matter in the system. This accumulation is so great that the kidneys and liver become overloaded and unable to perform their purifying tasks properly. The stagnation of unhealthy fluid in the tissues can also be aggravated by the heart muscle being too weak to pump the blood with sufficient force through the veins and arteries to carry the necessary oxygen and nourishment to the cells of the vital organs. This can result in the poisoning of the whole system.” As you review the verses in today’s reading, realize that Jesus was trying to tell the religious leaders of His day that something was terribly wrong with their system of worship and service and that it was poisoning the whole system.

**Prayer Emphasis: Understand** that “dropsy” was not a disease in itself, but a visible symptom of another disease or illness. Jesus not only saw that this man had a problem, Jesus knew the cause and the cure for it! **Refuse** to treat only the symptoms of sin and ask the **Kingdom Physician** to cure them!

## Day 5: Luke 14:15-24

*“Then He said to him, ‘A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’” (Luke 14:16-17)*

### “Come”

Today’s focus verse mentions that the many people who were invited to the king’s banquet, for one reason or another, failed to appear when the supper was ready. In New Testament times, a formal invitation was delivered to all invitees some time before a banquet was held. Then, when the actual date of the event arrived, an announcement that the meal was ready was delivered to everyone invited. Although only three people are specifically described in this story, we should note that verse 18 clearly states “they all...began to make excuses.” You might find it interesting that the word that is translated “excuse” in this story is most often translated “refuse” in the New Testament. The image here is not that the banquet holder was intolerant of excuses, but that he saw them for what they really were! The host in our story had every right to be angry since each of these people had obviously accepted the initial invitation to his banquet but were now refusing to attend at the appointed time. How sad it must have been for Jesus to see His own people, who had accepted the prophecies of a coming Messiah, ultimately reject Him when the announcement of His arrival was made.

**Prayer Emphasis:** The **Kingdom Physician’s** prescription is that we simply “come” to Him when He bids us. It is obvious from this story that “many” people are invited and that few really take this invitation to heart! Don’t “choose to refuse!” **Give** higher priority to the things of God than to the things of this world!

## Day 6: Luke 14:25-35

*“For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it—” (Luke 14:28)*

### Counting the Costs!

After Jesus observed the great multitudes who were “with Him” (v. 1), He spoke to them about three ways that they might “count” (calculate) whether or not they were truly prepared to follow Him. The word translated “cannot” in the Lord’s three statements is the opposite of the word “able.” I do not think Jesus was telling these people that they were not saved or that they could not be saved, but rather they were not yet in a place where they were fully prepared to follow Him. Take a few moments today to consider the costs of being a committed follower of Christ. First, those who are “able” to make a full commitment to Christ will be marked by *separation*. That person must place Him above all other relationships. The word “hate,” as it is used here, did not mean to loathe or despise, but to make something a lower priority. In other words, unless one is willing to make following Christ a higher priority than any other relationship, that person was not going to be “able” to truly follow Jesus. Second, Jesus said that the person who would be “able” to follow Him would be marked by *suffering*. The word “cross” that is used to describe the second “cost” of following Christ is the same word used to describe the cross upon which our Savior died. Third, those who will be “able” to follow Christ will be marked by *sacrifice*. Jesus said the person who would be fully prepared to follow Him would have to be willing to “forsake all that he has” (v. 33).

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Prayerfully consider** your commitment to Christ. **Look** for ways to make Him a priority in your life today. Be prepared for an opportunity to **make a right choice** today and be blessed!

## Day 7: Luke 15:1-14

“*But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.*”  
(Luke 15:14)

### “In Want”

The Scripture we have read today mentions a lost sheep, some lost silver, and a lost son. Although some may use these stories to teach about salvation, it is important to understand what is really being said here. The sheep that was “lost” was already the possession of the shepherd just as the silver coin that the woman “lost” already belonged to her. It was only lost in the sense that she was no longer sure where it was. Just as much so, we are to understand that the “lost” son that Jesus mentioned in this parable was already a “son” to his father. He was not lost in the sense that he was no longer a son, but he was lost in the sense that he was not where a son ought to be and he was certainly not doing what a son should have been doing. Instead, he had allowed his own personal ambitions and desires to take precedence over his relationship to his father. If you keep the story of the prodigal son in context with the verses that precede it, you will see this is a follow-up to the great truth about “counting” the costs associated with being a committed follower of the heavenly Father! When this young man decided to go his own way and do what he wanted to do, he soon found himself “in want.” We can be certain that this young man’s father missed his lost son. But the father was not the only one who was missing something! The young man was missing out on having a right relationship with his father.

**Prayer Emphasis:** The **Kingdom Physician** constantly emphasized the importance of His followers living in a right relationship to Him. **Evaluate** your own actions to see if they are *self-centered* or *Christ-centered*.

## Day 8: Luke 15:15-32

“*Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ...But when he came to himself, he said, “How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!”*” (Luke 15:15 & 17)

### “Then” and “When”

Our two focus verses contain the words “then” and “when.” The “*then*” looks at the moment in time when this young man had spent all of his inheritance and was destitute. He had demanded his full inheritance and the freedom to spend it in any way that he desired. Of course, his decision to leave his father was a bad one that quickly led to more bad decisions. Soon he had spent all of his inheritance and found himself in the middle of a famine that ultimately resulted in him working for someone else – and in a pig pen! It was at that time that the “*when*” chapter began in his life. “*When* he came to himself” (literally “to his senses”) he made the decision to return to his home and cast himself at his father’s mercy. A point of interest in this story is found in the father’s words to the son that stayed home. When that son complained to his father about the celebration given for his wayward brother, his father reminded him that, “all that I have is yours” (v. 31). Since the father had already “divided” (v. 12) his possessions between his two sons, the one that lived so rebelliously and spent it all had no claim to the remaining possessions since they had already been given to his brother.

**Prayer Emphasis:** Our **Kingdom Physician** would have us remember that “free will” is anything but free. **Refuse** to place more value on your will than on the will of the Father!

## Day 9: Luke 16:1-13

“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.” (Luke 16:13)

### No Exceptions!

Today’s focus verse contains a principle that is in context with the parable of the unjust steward as well as the parable of the prodigal son. In both parables, the word “wasted” or “wasting” is used to apply to the irresponsible way that someone handled their money (15:13 and 16:1). Both stories reveal some very sad character flaws in their central characters. There may not be anything that might influence a person’s character more than the love of money! There is no other thing ever mentioned by Jesus that might “master” us like money and the desire for it. We often consider ourselves to be the exception to certain rules by thinking, “Well, that might happen to some, but it could never happen to me!” If you recall, Peter made that mistake when he promised the Lord that he would never deny Him, even if everyone else did! When Jesus said, “No servant can serve two masters” He meant there was not one single person who could successfully divide their devotion between Him and anything else. The word translated “servant” here is a word that was not used by any other Gospel writer but Luke. In Matthew 6:24, Jesus made this statement and said, “No one can serve two masters.” This is not a contradiction in the Bible. Jesus often repeated the same truths in different places and in different ways to different people.

**Prayer Emphasis:** Ask yourself, “What is the **Kingdom Physician** trying to say to me in this focus verse?” **Read** the Bible like it was written to you – because you can rest assured that it was!

## Day 10: Luke 16:14-31

“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate,” (Luke 16:19-20)

### The Rich Man and Lazarus

There has been much debate over the years as to whether the story of the rich man and Lazarus was the recalling of a literal event or a parable. In our focus verses, Jesus actually mentioned the name of the beggar that died and went to heaven. As far as I know, no other parable provides a name for one of its characters. While many people use this story to teach about the eternal torment of the lost in hell, Jesus was using it in a different way. He was speaking directly to the Pharisees as He was continuing to speak to them about their stewardship of the Word of God. The fact that the “rich man...was clothed in purple and fine linen” suggested two things. Since purple was a color associated with *royalty* and fine linen was a cloth associated with the *priesthood*, Jesus was speaking of the blessed position that the Jews held in the eyes of God. I am sure every Pharisee hearing this story immediately thought of Exodus 19:6, where God told Moses that Israel would be to Him, “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” In Romans 9:4, Paul referred to the Jews as, “Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the services of God, and the promises.” While the Jews “fared sumptuously” every day, the lost and needy of the world remained as beggars at their feet. This story does reveal some things about hell, but it is also a reminder to the Jews that they were being poor stewards of God’s Word while living on earth!

**Prayer Emphasis:** Remove your spiritual blinders and **take** a long look at the world around you! **Refer** some sin-sick soul to the **Kingdom Physician** today! You know that He can help them!



## Day 11: Luke 17:1-10

*“And the apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith.’” (Luke 17:5)*

### **“Increase Our Faith”**

Although all the Gospels contain important teachings on forgiveness, Luke’s is the only record that contains this amazing reaction to the Lord’s command that we should be willing to forgive our fellow Christians “seven times in a day” (v. 4). The disciples understood fully what Jesus meant by that phrase. They knew that He did not mean they could keep a count and they were no longer responsible for forgiving someone who sinned against them on an eighth time in one day! As far as I can tell, this is the only time that those who left all to follow Jesus ever asked Him to “increase” their faith! They listened to Him teach on prayer and they went about praying! They listened to Him teach on ministry and then went about doing ministry. But, when He addressed this issue of forgiveness, they knew they did not have within them the ability to comply with this teaching without some supernatural assistance. The word that is translated “increase” in our focus verse is the same word that is translated “added” in Matthew 6:33. In that verse Jesus commanded His followers to, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things (material needs) shall be *added* to you.” In the verses that follow our focus verse, Jesus was careful to explain that their “faith” issue was not a matter of *quantity*, but *quality* and that *genuine* faith is much more to be desired than a *greater* (amount of) faith.

**Prayer Emphasis:** Accept the Kingdom Physician’s prescription for genuine faith and begin receiving doses of it each time you read His Word. **Remember** that “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:17). So, as you read the Word, **pray**, “Lord, please increase my faith!”

## Day 12: Luke 17:11-23

*“And He said to him, ‘Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.’” (Luke 17:19)*

### **“Well” Inside and Out!**

It is important to note that this wonderful story found only in Luke is the record of an actual event and not a parable. While on His way to Jerusalem, Jesus passed through Samaria and Galilee. As He was entering one of the villages there, He was met by 10 men who were “lepers” (v. 12). Since it was not permissible for them to intermingle with the public, and impossible for them to work for a living, it was not unusual for lepers to form small colonies just outside the gates of cities so they could beg for food or money from those who were coming and going. No doubt, these men had heard about Jesus, because they “lifted up their voices” and asked Jesus for *mercy* and not for *money* (v. 12)! Jesus simply commanded them to go and show themselves to the priests, which was something that someone would do if they believed they had been cleansed from leprosy. Jesus asked them to go *in faith* even while they were still lepers! Then, “as they went, they were cleansed” (v. 14). One can only imagine how it would have been if one or more of them had decided to stay and wait for some more profound command, only to later learn that those who obeyed Christ’s simple command had been made whole. How sad it is to see that it was only “one of them” who, after seeing that he had been healed, “returned, and with a loud voice glorified God.” This one leper then “fell down on his face” at the feet of Jesus, “giving Him thanks” (vs. 15-16).

**Prayer Emphasis:** Express your *gratitude* as faithfully and fervently as you express your *need*! **Develop** an “attitude of gratitude” that will exhibit the kind of “wellness” that is on the inside.

## Day 13: Luke 17:24-37

“*And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man:*” (Luke 17:26)

### “The Days of Noah”

In an effort to explain how the days just before His second coming were going to be, Jesus likened them to “the days of Noah.” Since no one, other than his family, took Noah and his preaching seriously, they went about life as usual and failed to see the importance of preparing for the coming flood. Jesus said that it would be like that in the last days. People will be busy with their daily lives, oblivious to the pending danger, and not realize they should have taken heed to their many warnings until it will be too late. He then mentioned that people did the same things in “the days of Lot” (v. 28). They ignored the signs and then perished in their ignorance! However, one of the most important aspects of the stories of Noah and Lot is that God first delivered His people *before* His final judgment was outpoured. No person who has ever lived will be able to say that God brought judgment without first bringing a clear warning of its coming! How interesting it is that Jesus stated that those who were “on the housetop” while their “goods” were “in the house,” should not “come down to take them away.” On the day of the Lord’s return, our hearts will no longer be focused on what we have “in our house” but on what we have “in heaven.”

**Prayer Emphasis:** Prepare your heart for our Lord’s coming! Become heavenly minded now and you will never regret it when you finally stand before God’s throne! The **Kingdom Physician** would have you be in good spiritual shape and fully prepared when the Day of the Lord arrives!

## Day 14: Luke 18:1-14

“*Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,*” (Luke 18:1)

### A Parable on Prayer

The Gospel of Luke has often been called “The Gospel of Prayer.” This is due to the amount of attention that Luke paid to what Jesus *preached* on prayer and the way He *practiced* prayer in His personal life. The “Parable of the Persistent Widow” is found in no other Gospel but Luke. The purpose of this story was not to teach us how to pray, but how to pray without losing heart. It is more of an *exhortation* to be faithful in prayer than it is an *explanation* of how to pray. It is not uncommon for people to “lose heart” when it comes to prayer. The Apostle Paul praised the prayer life of a man named Epaphras by reminding the Colossian believers that Epaphras was, “always laboring fervently for you in prayers.” So, Paul clearly believed that *praying* was *laboring*! As such, praying can become something that we discontinue to do faithfully if we are not careful. Some read this parable and become confused about the judge’s reluctance to answer this woman’s prayer and think Jesus was saying that God is sometimes reluctant to answer our prayers. We should all be reminded that Paul (2 Corinthians 12:8) and even Jesus (Mark 14:39) unashamedly prayed repeatedly for some things that they had previously requested of God. If anything, this story encourages us to continually bring our prayer requests to God because He is faithful to answer those who will be persistent in their pursuit of His blessing.

**Prayer Emphasis:** The **Kingdom Physician** would have us see prayer as a *first resource* rather than a *last resort*! Avoid being like the children who knock on doors and then run away before the door is opened. Prayer is not a children’s game but a lifestyle to be portrayed by those who faithfully acknowledge Jesus as their Lord!

## Day 15: Luke 18:15-30

“Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, ‘Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’”  
(Luke 18:18)

### The Rich Young Ruler

Today’s Scripture reading contains another story that is often mistaken as a parable. We must read the entire account to gain a full description of this man who came to Jesus. Verse 18 states he was a “ruler.” Verse 21 implies he was young. And, verse 23 states he was not just rich, but “very rich.” The word that is translated “very” in verse 23 is translated “exceedingly” or “greatly” in other places in the Bible. One might suppose there were people who would say that this guy had it all. He had his youth, his wealth, and he had great position in his community. Yet something drove him to come and speak with Jesus. We are often guilty of thinking that Jesus only came for the “down and outers” and forget that many “up and outers” were also helped by Him. When this man referred to Jesus as “Good Teacher” he used a term that was not used for other rabbis in Jesus’ day because it implied a complete goodness that no human being could possess. No one but God was ever referred to as being the kind of “good” that this man attributed to Jesus. There is no doubt that this man had a clear understanding of who Jesus was, yet still refused to abandon everything he had and follow Him.

**Prayer Emphasis: Consider** the blessings of the man in today’s story. He had *riches, a righteous lifestyle, and respect*, yet Jesus described him as someone who “lacked” something. **Read the Kingdom Physician’s** diagnosis and prescription found in verse 22 and seek to **apply** it to your own life.

## Day 16: Luke 18:31-43

“Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, ‘Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished.’” (Luke 18:31)

### A True Definition of “All”

Just after the Lord’s conversation with the rich, young ruler, Peter made a statement on behalf of all the disciples when he said, “We have left all and followed you” (v. 28). How did Jesus respond to Peter’s statement? He “then...took the twelve aside” and told them He would be “delivered to the Gentiles” and then fully explained to them all that was going to happen to Him (vs. 31-33). How sad it is to read that, even then, “they understood none of these things” (v. 34). Here Jesus was responding to Peter’s statement by giving them a true definition of what it meant to give “all.” To give all means to live in accordance with God’s written Word (v. 31). It also means to be willing to be subjected to undeserved suffering and humiliation (v. 32). Furthermore, to give our “all” means to, if need be, give our very lives in service to those who treat us wrongfully (v. 33). Verses 35-43 contain a story that helps us to have an even greater understanding of how Christ gave His “all” in the face of such trying circumstances. When a blind man cried out to Jesus for mercy, others warned this needy man to be silent. Jesus stopped and commanded that the blind man be brought to Him and then He healed him. How easy it is for us to consider “all” that our walk with the Lord has cost us and neglect to give one thing more. Here Jesus, so near to giving His life as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, still maintained His focus on doing what met the needs of others.

**Prayer Emphasis: Believe** that Jesus deserves your “all” and be willing to **follow** His example in living sacrificially for others in spite of your own pending circumstances. **Realize** that we are always “on call.”

## Day 17: Luke 19:1-10

*“Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.” (Luke 19:1-2)*

### Zacchaeus

The story of Zacchaeus is one of the most well-known stories in all of the New Testament, yet we would know nothing about this man if we did not have Luke’s Gospel. As we read this wonderful story, we should note three things about this very important Bible character. First, we should note that *“he was rich”* (v. 2). However, even though he was obviously a man of great possessions, he still knew that something was missing in his life. He was so aware of that fact that he took extreme measures to get to where he could see Jesus. I have often wondered if he had another motive for climbing up into that tree that day! I have also often wondered if, because of his being of such *“short stature”* (v. 3), that he might have climbed that tree so Jesus *could see him!* As a reward for his efforts to see Jesus, *he was made even richer* when he received Jesus joyfully (v. 6)! However, the story does not end there, because we are then allowed to see Zacchaeus *at his richest* (v. 8) when he vowed to share his possessions with others and to not allow them to ever again possess him.

**Prayer Emphasis: Refuse** to allow your possessions to possess you! Be willing to **share** what God has given you with others. There is no doubt that the **Kingdom Physician** made a remarkable, noticeable difference in the life of Zacchaeus!

## Day 18: Luke 19:11-19

*“Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately.” (Luke 19:11)*

### Another Parable

We would be wise to see that this parable is not just about money but about faithfulness. Our focus verse reveals that Jesus gave this parable to help His followers understand that His kingdom was not going to begin *“immediately.”* Because of that, they needed to understand the importance of being obedient to Him with their possessions in the here and now. The story tells of 10 men who were given material blessings by their master and then advised to do the master’s *“business”* with them until he returned. For reasons unknown, we are only made aware of how three of those 10 servants responded to their master’s command. Upon the master’s return, one man gladly reported that he had faithfully employed the money he had been given and it had *“earned”* an amount equal to 10 times more than what he had received. A second servant reported that his master’s money had been gainfully employed to the point where it had earned five times its value. In both cases, the master was quick to reward his servant in accordance to his obedience. It is important to note that even though it had been given to his servants to use, the money still belonged to the master and he had every right to expect that it would be used as he so desired. When the master spoke of their being *“faithful in a very little”* (v. 17) he was not speaking of the amount of money they had received but that their faithfulness in something as *“little”* as money indicated they could also be trusted with things of greater importance.

**Prayer Emphasis: Learn** that the blessings received here were for obedience. **Remember,** the **Kingdom Physician** is not so impressed with what we have as He is with what we choose to do with it!

## Day 19: Luke 19:20-32

“Then another came, saying, ‘Master, here is your mina, which I have kept put away in a handkerchief.’” (Luke 19:20)

### The Third Man

We would do well to remember that the parables we read about yesterday and today followed the wonderful testimony of how Zacchaeus’ attitude about money had been radically changed after he met Jesus! He went from being *rich* in possessions to being at his *richest* when he no longer allowed his possessions to possess him! The third, and final, report to our story’s master revealed an entirely different attitude than that of the two reports from yesterday’s verses. This third man thought his master was more concerned about *money* than about *ministry*, so he had carefully hidden his master’s money and kept it safe and secure until his master’s return. The problem with this third man’s report was not that he did not have a large amount of money to return to his master, but that he had not obeyed his master’s command to employ it in his master’s business. A key word in this parable is “authority” (v. 17). The first two men respected the “authority” of their master and obeyed his command, while the poor man in today’s story is likened to people who did not want their master “to reign over them” (v. 27). This pitiful man’s problem was that he did not obey his master’s command to be about his business. We would all do well to remember that our service to the Lord cannot be based on what *we think* but on what *God commands!*

**Prayer Emphasis:** Realize that our **Kingdom Physician** only prescribes what is best for us. **Seek** to be immediately and fully obedient to His every command. **Surrender** to His authority today and you will not regret it when you stand before Him in Heaven!

## Day 20: Luke 19:33-48

“But as they were losing the colt, the owners of it said to them, ‘Why are you losing the colt?’ And they said, ‘The Lord has need of him.’” (Luke 19:33-34)

### A Good Question and an Even Better Answer!

I am neither surprised by the question of the owner of the young colt or the answer provided in the response of the Lord’s two disciples. The colt was the owner’s personal property, and he had every right to question why someone would be taking it. The word that is translated “colt” here is the Greek word used to translate the Hebrew word that meant “donkey.” Zechariah prophesied that, “Your King is coming to you...lowly and riding on a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9). When Jesus sent His two disciples after the colt, He did not provide them any explanation for their actions beyond the one that they obediently gave to its owner. Even though they probably had no idea why the Lord “needed” that donkey, they knew that He desired it and they were not going to return without it! We do not always have to understand why the Lord gives us certain commands, but we always need to be faithful in obeying them. If the prophecy of the Messiah’s riding into Jerusalem on a donkey was to be fulfilled, then the Master’s command to these willing servants had to be fulfilled. We should never underestimate the value of obedience or the role we are called to play in our Master’s service. No task is *unimportant*, and because of that, no task should be left *undone!*

**Prayer Emphasis:** Obey God at your every opportunity and **refuse** to see any task done for Him as insignificant. **Trust** the **Kingdom Physician** to prescribe only that which is best for you!

## Day 21: Luke 20:1-14

“... *Tell us, by what authority are You doing these things?*’...” (Luke 20:2)

### *More About “Authority”*

The events we read about from Luke 20:1-21:36 all occur in just one day. The “these things” to which the Jewish religious leaders were referring to were probably the cleansing of the temple that we read about yesterday and maybe even the teaching that Jesus was giving in the temple. The religious leaders wanted to know where Jesus had received His “authority” to do and say the things that He did. Except for Revelation, no book in the New Testament contains this word for “authority” more often than Luke. In Revelation, the word is most often used to describe our Lord’s authority in Heaven while in Luke it is most often used to describe His authority on earth. It should not surprise us that the One who taught us to pray that His will would be done “On earth as it is in Heaven” (Matthew 6:10) would operate under the same “authority” on earth as He would in Heaven! As He often did, Jesus answered their question with a question of His own. When He asked them whether or not John’s authority to baptize was “from heaven” He was stating that Heaven was the source of His authority. The parable that followed would serve to remind those religious leaders that God had sent many “authorized” messengers to them over the years. He was now sending His own Son to represent Him. The way the wicked men of that story responded to the owner of the vineyard’s son was the same way that these men were now responding to Him.

**Prayer Emphasis:** Allow Christ to be the ultimate authority in your life. **Know** that our **Kingdom Physician** knows what is best for us and that He alone can empower us to accomplish His will. **Do something** heavenly for someone on earth today!

## Day 22: Luke 20:15-26

“*So they cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do to them?*” (Luke 20:15)

### *“They Cast Him Out...And Killed Him”*

When we read this parable that was spoken to “the people” we must remember that it was spoken in the presence of the religious leaders who had just questioned the Lord’s authority. His reference to “The stone which the builders rejected” and it becoming “the chief cornerstone” was a quotation from Psalm 118:22. Their familiarity with the Psalms would have, no doubt, caused these religious leaders to remember the words that followed that phrase in the song. In Psalm 118, the stanzas that followed the one quoted here were, “This was the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:23-24). Jesus was basically telling them that they already knew the answer to their question and all that was now happening was “the LORD’s doing” and that, no matter how they chose to react to it, He was going to “rejoice and be glad in it.” How sad it is to see that these words of Christ did not lead these men to repentance. Rather, they responded by beginning to relentlessly pursue an opportunity to deliver Him to the “authority of the governor” (v. 20). I am always amazed that they would send people who “pretended to be righteous” (v. 20) to do such an unrighteous deed.

**Prayer Emphasis:** Be genuine in all that you *say to God* and all that you *do for God*! **Live** in such a way that there is no question about your loyalty to the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Day 23: Luke 20:27-36

“Then some of the Sadducees, who deny that there is a resurrection, came to Him and asked Him,”  
(Luke 20:27)

### The Sadducees

The Sadducees were a group of highly religious priests and political leaders who many considered to be better friends to Rome than they were to Israel or God. They rejected much of what the prophets had to say and accepted only what was written in the Books of Moses. They refused to adhere to the traditions (interpretations) of the Pharisees because they believed each man could interpret the Scripture as he saw fit and that no personal interpretation was wrong. These men were only mentioned in Matthew, Mark and Luke’s Gospels. Luke mentioned them several more times in Acts, but they are never mentioned again after that book. They were probably best described in Acts 23:8 where we are told that the, “Sadducees say that there is no resurrection – and no angel or spirit.” All three of the Gospel writers who mentioned this group defined them in that way. To believe there is “no angel or spirit” meant to believe that when you were dead, you were completely dead and there was no life after death. This belief led to their refusal to believe there was even a need for a resurrection. The Sadducees dissolved and disappeared after the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. and were never again a religious force. As you read about this strange group of “unbelieving believers” you will see that Jesus, knowing their beliefs about the Scriptures, always spoke to them from the writings of Moses, just as He did here in verse 37.

**Prayer Emphasis:** Beware of anyone who has more interest in *arguing* the Bible than in *announcing* the Gospel. **Refuse** to allow others to rob you of the joy of believing in Heaven and life after death!

## Day 24: Luke 20:37-47

“But even Moses showed in the burning bush passage that the dead are raised, when he called the Lord “the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”” (Luke 20:37)

### The God of the Living!

The statement that God “is not the God of the dead but of the living” (v. 38), is based on the information that is found in the story of the burning bush. The words of verse 37 are a quote from Exodus 3:6; however, the quote is not in full. In the account of Moses’ conversation with God at the burning bush, God said to him, “I am the God of your father – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Even though all three of those men were no longer alive on earth, God still spoke of His relationship with them in the *present tense*. He did not say to Moses, “I *was*” the God of your forefathers, but “I *am*” their God. The word that is translated “showed” in verse 37 is used very sparingly in the New Testament. Luke used it twice, then John and Paul each used it once. It is a word that means to “disclose or make known something secret.” In John 11:57 we read, “Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a command, that if anyone knew where He (Jesus) was, he should ‘report’ it, that they might seize Him.” “Report” there is translated from the same word as “showed” here. God’s Word to Moses is still His Word to those who trust Him today. He is the God of the *here* as well as the God of the *hereafter*.

**Prayer Emphasis:** Heed the warning of verses 46-47 and **avoid** being like those who are very “Christian” in their public worship (words, deed, and prayers) and then evil in their private affairs. **Seek** to be a genuine follower of Christ in all of your relationships and dealings with people.

## Day 25: Luke 21:1-13

“...*He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites.*” (Luke 21:2)

### Two Mites

If you desired to enter the Temple in Jerusalem in the first century A.D., you would do so through the eastern gate where Jesus made His triumphal entry. That gate opened to the Court of the Gentiles, which was a large court paved with stones of various colors. It was open to all people, including the moneychangers who profited from the people who came to worship and offer sacrifices to God. This court was also called the Outer Court. The Temple proper was then surrounded by a terrace that was nine feet higher than the Court of the Gentiles. It was also surrounded by a five-foot high wall, which was designed to keep the Gentiles out of the temple building. Signs were posted warning all Gentiles to come no further under penalty of death. Just beyond the Court of the Gentiles, the Susan Gate opened to another walled terrace called “the Court of the Women.” It was not so named because only women could worship there, but because that was as far as women could go in the temple. Women could not go beyond that wall. In the various courts of the temple there were strategically placed receptacles to collect offerings. Jesus was near one of the collection boxes when he saw the widow give her two coins as an offering to God. Beyond the Court of Women was the Court of the Israelites and then the Court of the Priests where the altar of sacrifice was located. However, the “sacrifice” that caught the Lord’s eye on this day was the one made by the woman who went as far as she was *allowed to go* and then gave as much as she was *able to give*.

**Prayer Emphasis: Note** that this dear woman had only two coins but decided to give them both as an offering. **Ask** God to give you a strong faith when it comes to the matter of giving!

## Day 26: Luke 21:14-24

“...*I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.*” (Luke 21:15)

### Live without Contradiction

Yesterday’s Scripture reading began with the testimony of the widow who gave all that she had and then concluded with the Lord reminding us that our personal persecutions can often become “an occasion for testimony” (v. 13). As today’s Scriptures begin, we see the Lord instructing us on how to take advantage of those “occasions” that might lead to a personal “testimony.” Every believer would do well to realize that we are all on trial every day. As such, we need to be daily trusting the **Kingdom Physician** for “wisdom” in answering our adversaries so that they may not be able to “contradict or resist” the validity of our testimony. The word that is translated “contradict” in our focus verse is a word that means to “speak against.” It is a word that is used only by Luke in the New Testament. The way the word is used later in Acts 4:14 pretty much explains the meaning of the word. In that verse we learn that, after Peter and John’s meeting with the lame man at the temple gate resulted in his miraculous healing, the religious leaders called Peter and John before them, but, “after seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, *they could say nothing against it.*” We should all be living our lives in such a way that the evidence for our faith in God cannot be contradicted by anything that anyone might be able to say against us.

**Prayer Emphasis: Pray** for the kind of personal testimony that will stand up against the attacks of the enemy. **Live** with the constant awareness that your every act can become a witness *for* or *against* Christ.



## Day 27: Luke 21:25-38

“*Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.*” (Luke 21:36)

### Pray Always

On more than one occasion we find the Bible teaching us to pray “always.” Perhaps there is no better life to help us understand what that really means than the life of our Lord Jesus. The word that is translated “always” in our focus verse is a word that is most often translated “time” or “season.” There are at least two places in the Scripture where that same word is translated “opportunity.” To “pray always” means to be in constant contact with God throughout all the “times” or “seasons” of our lives. The last two verses of today’s reading give us a bit of insight into how busy the days had become for Jesus. In the “daytime” He was busy “teaching in the temple” so it was “at night” that He was able to spend personal and devotional time with His Father. However, there was no rest for our faithful Leader! After spending His nights in prayer, His days began “early in the morning” as “all the people came to Him in the temple to hear Him.” I think it is important to note that the Bible does not simply say “all of the people came to the temple” but rather “all of the people came to the temple *to hear Him.*” There was a renewed spiritual interest in the people because they were hearing from someone who was spending time with God and who was able to explain the Scriptures to them in a way that they had never heard before!

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Commit** time to prayer! **Maintain** contact with God throughout your day and include Him in your decision-making processes. The **Kingdom Physician’s** life is a witness to us that speaking with God will greatly influence our ability to speak to others.

## Day 28: Luke 22:1-13

“*And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him...*” (Luke 22:2)

### Sought

Our focus verse clearly states that the religious leaders of Jesus’ day “*sought* how they might kill Him.” The word that is translated “sought” here is a word that means “to search out by thinking, meditating, reasoning and inquiring.” This word is found twice in the first six verses of Luke 22. First, it describes the diligent efforts of the religious leaders to do away with Jesus (v. 2) and then later it is used to describe the efforts of Judas to assist them in their evil deed (v. 6). The statement that these men acted because “they feared the people” means that they saw the people transferring their loyalty from a place (the temple) to a Person (Jesus). As a result of His ever-growing popularity, two common enemies of Jesus, “the chief priests and the scribes,” joined forces to form a plan to kill Him. As you read these verses, it is important to note that it was Judas who must have initiated the ultimate plan to help them capture and kill Jesus. Verse 5 clearly states that they “*agreed to give him money.*” As such, we understand that they were simply responding to a plan he had suggested. John 12:6 revealed that Judas had a weakness for money by disclosing “he was a thief and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.” So, Satan cleverly used a pre-existing weakness to motivate Judas to do the unthinkable. Our enemy has not changed much over the years. And, I am sad to say, neither have many who follow Him.

**Prayer Emphasis:** **Refuse** to be a person controlled by sin and greed. **Pray** for strength in times of temptation and **resist** the devil when he tempts you to betray the One who gave His all for you!

## Day 29: Luke 22:14-23

“*But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table.*” (Luke 22:21)

### “The Hand of My Betrayer”

It is clear from the Gospel records that no one but Jesus knew who it was that would betray Him. The fact that the disciples “began to question among themselves which of them it was who would do this thing” (v. 23) clearly discloses that Jesus never revealed that it was Judas who had betrayed Him. Apparently, there was nothing about the outward look or actions of Judas that would reveal that his heart was no longer committed to Christ. He had obviously found a way to keep up appearances even though he had now joined forces with Satan! Because of that, *everyone* at the table heard Jesus announce that “the hand of my betrayer is with Me on the table” (v. 21) but *no one* knew who it was. However, a quick comparison to John’s account of this conversation reveals something wonderfully important to us. While the other Gospels indicate that many of the disciples began to ask the Lord, “Is it I?” John’s Gospel records that John asked, “Lord, who is it?” From that record, we can clearly discern that John, like everyone else at the table, had no idea *who it was* that had betrayed Jesus, but that he most definitely knew *who it wasn’t!*

**Prayer Emphasis:** Lift your own hands to the Lord today and ask that they never be used to betray Jesus in any way! Ask the **Kingdom Physician** to keep you true and faithful to Jesus at all times.

## Day 30: Luke 22:24-34

“*...there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest.*” (Luke 22:24)

### A Recurring Conversation

How sad it is to see that, after spending three years walking and talking with Jesus on a daily basis, these men, at this time, are still arguing about who is greatest among them. When you remember the verses that precede this one, it gives the appearance that this current discussion regarding greatness was born from their concerns over which of them might have been the one to betray Jesus. This “who is the greatest” theme seems to have been a constant conversational topic among the disciples. Just after Jesus stated that He would be betrayed and killed (Matthew 17:22-23) the disciples came to Him asking, “Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” (Matthew 18:1). The issue surfaced again in Matthew 20:20-26 as the mother of James and John approached Jesus asking that they be granted to sit at His right and left hand in His kingdom. Mark 9:33-34 records a time when the disciples discussed this same topic while walking with the Lord on the road to Capernaum. And now, just hours before His arrest and death, the Lord’s disciples are once again discussing who might be the greatest among them! In John’s account, Jesus answered this argument by something that He did! It was at this time, and in response to this argument, that He “rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciple’s feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded” (John 13:4-5). Only Luke records the brief conversation between Jesus and Peter that is recorded in Luke 22:31-32. Since Peter was, no doubt, one of the “eyewitnesses” to which Luke referred in 1:2, then we might assume that he learned of this private conversation from Peter himself.

**Prayer Emphasis:** Believe that the example of the **Kingdom Physician** is the permanent cure for pride and arrogance! **Seek** to serve others and you will soon find yourself growing to be more like Jesus!

## Day 31: Luke 22:35-46

*“So they said, ‘Lord, look, here are two swords.’” (Luke 22:38)*

### Enough

Just after Jesus stated that it was time for Him to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah 53:12 about His being “numbered with the transgressors” and that the end of His life on earth was near, the disciples spoke up and said, “Lord, look, here are two swords” (v. 38). I will have more to say about these brave men and their swords tomorrow, but today I want to clarify some confusion regarding the Lord’s response to that statement. When Jesus said, “It is enough” He was certainly not saying that their two swords would be enough to withstand the forces that were soon to come against Him, but there had now been “enough” talking and He was ready to move forward in the fulfillment of God’s great plan for the redemption of mankind. After He led them to a place where He often went to pray, He told the disciples to “pray” and then went a short distance from them to speak privately with the Father. When He “rose up” from that time of agonizing prayer, He came “to His disciples” and “found them sleeping” (v. 45). Only Doctor Luke records the fact that, as Jesus was praying, “His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground” (v. 44). He was also the only Gospel writer to mention the fact that “an angel appeared to Him from Heaven, strengthening Him” (v. 43).

**Prayer Emphasis: Recognize** that there is a time when the *talking* must end, and the *walking* must begin! **Refuse** to allow your pride to get the better of you and lead you to overpromise and underperform. **Seek** to be a steady, faithful servant to Christ at all times and in all ways.

## Day 32: Luke 22:47-60

*“And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him.” (Luke 22:47)*

### The Kiss of Betrayal

How sad it is to see that, when Judas first approached Jesus on the night of His betrayal, he had the audacity to greet him with a ceremonial kiss! When one considers the tense of the Greek verb that is translated “kiss” here, and understands that it means to “kiss repeatedly” or “to be continually kissing,” then you can get a better idea of how sickening this false display of affection must have been. Both Matthew and Mark tell us that this “kiss” was merely a “sign” as to which of the men in the darkened garden was Jesus. As we read verse 48, we can only imagine how the question that Jesus asked of His betrayer that night must have struck him – “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a *kiss*?” After so much hypocrisy, duality, and pretention, Judas dared to choose a sign of affection as his sign of betrayal. But, isn’t that what a person would have usually done in the usual situation? Surely Judas must have considered that it would have looked even more suspicious if he had not greeted Jesus with a kiss! Would the other disciples not immediately think something was wrong if Judas had greeted Jesus without affection? So, Judas chose to do what he would have usually done if he had not been busy collecting his blood money – his “bounty” for delivering Jesus to those who wanted Him “dead not alive.”

**Prayer Emphasis: Consider** the sorrowful witness of the believer who chooses to display love for Jesus among friends and then betray Him when among His enemies. **Refuse** to allow your public worship to become nothing more than a “sign” or “token” to others. **Remember** that being faithful is a choice!

## Day 33: Luke 22:61-71

*“And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, ‘Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.’” (Luke 22:61)*

### “The Lord...Looked at Peter”

I have often wondered which act hurt our Savior more – Judas’ betrayal or Peter’s denial. Both of these men were leaders among the disciples. Peter was often the spokesman and Judas was obviously the treasurer. Yet both men eventually betrayed Jesus on the night of His arrest – one by what he *did* and the other by what he *did not do*. After Peter’s *boasting* was so quickly followed by *betrayal*, Jesus simply “turned and looked” at him. A look back to the first time that Jesus met Peter helps us understand the significance that should be attached to the “look” that Jesus gave Peter on this night. John records the first meeting between Jesus and Peter, as well as the first words that Jesus ever spoke to him. When Andrew brought Peter to meet the Savior, we are told that, “Jesus looked at him” and “said...’you shall be called Cephas’ (which is translated, A Stone)” (John 1:42). The word that was used to describe the way Jesus “looked” at Peter in their first meeting is no different than the word that is used to describe the way Jesus “looked” at him on this night. The one that had been known as “Simon Peter” (the “Rock”) had now become “Cephas” (the “small stone” or “pebble”). A great ministry lesson is found in this story. From it we learn that God would not have us see people any differently after they have failed us, or even after they have seemingly betrayed us. A shepherd must *love* the sheep – *all* of the sheep – and *all* of the time!

**Prayer Emphasis:** Never forget that “Christ died for us while we were still sinners” (Romans 5:8) and that He does not change the way He sees us just because we sometimes sin against Him. **Believe** that the **Kingdom Physician** sees no case as hopeless!

## Day 34: Luke 23:1-12

*“Then he questioned Him with many words, but He answered him nothing.” (Luke 23:9)*

### No Comment!

Luke 23:6-12 tells the story of Jesus before Herod and is a part of the Scripture story that is found only in Luke’s Gospel. There is something quite unusual about this story in that Herod became the only person to whom He had absolutely nothing to say! I find it interesting that Jesus was willing to answer the questions of Pilate but then refused to answer the questions asked of Him by Herod. I am sure that this meeting proved to be a great disappointment to Herod. He had heard much about Jesus and wanted to see Him for quite some time. But, now that Herod’s chance had finally arrived, Jesus refused to speak to him! I first concluded that Jesus must have remained silent before Herod in honor of John the Baptist! After all, Herod was the one who imprisoned John and then had him beheaded. But later I came to understand that Jesus really remained silent before Herod in our honor. Never forget that we are told that Jesus spoke with “authority.” By that, the Bible means that whatever Jesus said was indisputable. Had Jesus chosen to declare His innocence before Herod, Herod would have had no other option but to dismiss all charges against Him. If that had happened, Jesus would not have died for our sins and we would not be saved!

**Prayer Emphasis:** While you **thank God** for all that He has to say to us, take some time today to **thank Him** for what He did *not* say to Herod. The **Kingdom Physician** loved us more than He loved Himself!

## Day 35: Luke 23:13-25

*“Then Pilate...said to them, ‘You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man...’” (Luke 23:13-14)*

### No Fault

No Gospel emphasizes the innocence of Jesus more clearly than or as often as the Gospel of Luke! As you are reading in these next days, consider that our Lord’s innocence is emphasized no less than six times in this 23<sup>rd</sup> chapter! The first of those six times is found in an earlier passage where Pilate declared, “I find no fault in this man” (Luke 23:4). The second statement of Christ’s innocence is found in today’s focus verse where Pilate again stated that he could “find no fault” in Jesus. A third statement regarding our Lord’s innocence is found in verse 15 where Pilate continued to argue with the religious leaders by saying, “Nothing deserving of death has been done by Him.” And then, the fourth witness came as the crowds cried out for Jesus to be crucified. Pilate tried once more to silence them by repeating, “I have found no reason for death in Him.” As we complete this chapter, we will see two more testimonies regarding the innocence of Christ. The first will come from one of the thieves who was hung beside Jesus. As one thief blasphemed Jesus, the other said, “This man has done nothing wrong” (v. 41). Finally, we have the testimony of the centurion who, after watching Jesus die, said, “Certainly this was a righteous man” (v. 47).

**Prayer Emphasis:** Take advantage of every opportunity afforded you to speak a word of witness regarding the sinless life and sacrificial death of Jesus Christ! **Share** your personal testimony with someone today. **Speak** boldly of and about Jesus on a daily basis!

## Day 36: Luke 23:26-43

*“And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him...” (Luke 23:33)*

### There They Crucified Him

There is a powerful, four-point sermon outline to be found in today’s focus verse. I first heard it used by a fellow student many years ago while I was in Bible College. On Friday nights, many of us would gather in the dining room to take turns preaching. On one of those special nights, Thampi Joseph, a missionary student from India, stood and preached this simple sermon outline from the phrase, “there they crucified Him.” His points began with “*There*” = *The Place!* The Scriptures declare that “when they had come to the *place* called Calvary, *there* they crucified Him.” “*They*” = *The People!* Verse 35 speaks of “the people” that “stood looking on.” How sad it is to realize that many diverse people found something in common when they expressed their hatred of Jesus and demanded His death! “*Crucified*” = *The Punishment!* There was no more agonizing way to die than the cross. Because of the weight of their hanging body, an individual on the cross had to pull up with their arms and push up with their feet in order to breathe. After hours of hanging, the individual usually died from suffocation after they could no longer push up far enough to fill their lungs with air. The custom of breaking the legs of those who were sentenced to die on the cross allowed the executioners to speed up the process by limiting the victim’s ability to push up with their feet and fill their lungs with air. “*Him*” = *The Person!* Never forget that it was Christ Jesus, the virgin born, sinless Son of God that hung on the cross in our place!

**Prayer Emphasis:** Thank God that Jesus went to the cross in our place! It was there that the **Kingdom Physician** bore our sins. Believing that He bore our “c-u-r-s-e” is the only thing that “c-u-r-e-s” our sin!

## Day 37: Luke 23:44-56

*“And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, ‘Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.’ Having said this, He breathed His last.” (Luke 23:46)*

### *The Seventh Saying from the Cross*

Today’s focus verse contains the seventh, and final, of the known statements that Jesus uttered while on the cross. Of those seven recorded sayings, three of them are recorded by Luke, and they are all three found here in Luke 23. The first saying is found in Luke 23:34, where Christ prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” The second saying from the cross was spoken to one of the men who hung dying with Jesus on that fateful day. To him, Christ promised, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise” (23:43). The third statement that Jesus made from the cross concerned the care that He desired that John provide for His mother (John 19:26-27), while the fourth utterance was the agonizing cry recorded in Matthew 27:46, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” The fifth and sixth statements were both very brief and both were recorded by John. Those brief statements were, “I thirst!” and “It is finished!” The final words from the cross were, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.” It was after this seventh saying that our Lord Jesus “breathed His last.” However, we know this was not the end and that the ministry of Christ was far from over. One can only imagine how long those nine hours seemed to our suffering Lord and those fearful, yet faithful, followers who watched Him die.

**Prayer Emphasis: Refuse** to take what God has done for you for granted! **Replay** the events of that fateful day described in the Gospels and **remember** that it was for you that He died on that cross.

## Day 38: Luke 24:1-14

*“It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them, who told these things to the apostles.” (Luke 24:10)*

### *An Emphasis on Women*

No Gospel places a greater emphasis on the role of women in the life and ministry of Christ than the Gospel of Luke! As we have studied this Gospel, I have mentioned more than once my belief that Luke may have interviewed Mary as one of the “eyewitnesses” that he spoke of in his introduction to this book. One of the major differences between Matthew and Luke’s Gospels is found in the fact that Luke traced the lineage of Jesus through His mother, Mary, while Matthew traced it through His earthly father, Joseph. Luke’s action was quite unusual in the Jewish culture of Jesus’ time. Luke’s birth narratives of John the Baptist and Jesus are both told from the woman’s perspective. He makes references to women and their stories an astounding 45 times in this book. There is no question but that women received special attention in Luke’s Gospel! Only Luke mentions “Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward” and the “many others” (women) who were faithful financial contributors to our Lord’s work (Luke 8:3). Luke also mentions the women who followed Jesus all the way to the cross (Luke 23:49) and, in today’s text, he acknowledges that it was to women, with one of those women being Joanna, that Jesus first appeared after His resurrection from the grave.

**Prayer Emphasis: Pray** especially today for the women in your life and for all of the women in our church! **Pray** for their ministry and **seek to minister** to them. **Send** a card or **make** a call to one of the faithful female servants in our church and let them know that you are praying for them.

## Day 39: Luke 24:15-35

*“Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, ‘Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?’” (Luke 24:18)*

### *A Good Team!*

Even though Luke is recognized for the mention of so many faithful women in his Gospel story, he also paid attention to recognizing some very special men about whom we would know very little without this book. In today’s focus verse he mentions Cleopas as being one of the disciples who sadly walked down the road to Emmaus just after the death of Christ. John mentioned this good man’s wife, Mary, as being one of the women “who stood by the cross of Jesus” with Mary, the mother of Jesus. After Jesus joined these men in their walk, Cleopas mentioned to Jesus that “certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us...saying they had seen a vision of angels who said He was alive” (vs. 22-23). Later, as Jesus “sat at the table with them” and “took bread” and then “blessed and broke it” (v. 30), this good man, and his unnamed travelling companion “had their eyes opened and they knew (recognized) Him” (v. 31). Cleopas and his friend then “rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem” and joyfully reported to the 11 disciples that “The Lord is risen indeed” (vs. 33-34). One can only imagine the willingness of this man, Cleopas, to repeatedly tell this amazing testimony of his meeting with Christ on that day!

**Prayer Emphasis:** Never forget that our wonderful **Kingdom Physician** has done the very same thing for all of us by allowing us to know Him in a very personal and powerful way! **Faithfully speak** a word of personal testimony at every opportunity and **refuse** to remain silent about what the Lord has done for you!

## Day 40: Luke 24:36-53

*“But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, ‘Have you any food here?’” (Luke 24:41)*

### *Food*

While all of the Gospel stories mention this meeting with Jesus, only Luke mentions that the disciples gave Jesus food at this meeting. As silly as it may seem to mention, Luke was careful to record several stories about banquets and feasts that we do not find in the other Gospels. Throughout the gospels we see at least 19 references to food or to a meal – and 13 of those references are found only in the Gospel of Luke! I personally believe that Luke had a great appreciation for the importance of gathering together and sharing meals together as believers. I hope that you have truly “feasted” on the amazing information that Luke compiled for us so that we, like Theophilus, could “know the certainty of those things in which we have been instructed” (Luke 1:4). In closing, let me share something of importance to you about Luke’s growing relationship with Theophilus. In this book, Luke addresses this man with the honorific, “most excellent Theophilus.” However, in his second writing to this man, the Book of Acts, Luke simply refers to him by his name and does not include his title. In Bible times, one only addressed nobility on a first name basis if they were either relatives or the closest of friends. Because of this, many believe that Theophilus had become a Christian “brother” to Luke as a result of his reading this Book of Luke!

**Prayer Emphasis:** Thank you for walking through these last chapters 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](mailto:gary@seminolebc.com) to learn how you can have a personal relationship with the **Kingdom Physician**!