

Simply Jesus

The Life and Ministry of God's Son

Inductive: Lesson 20

Introduction

As Jesus heads towards Jerusalem, there are more encounters with people who need His touch and increased importance on the lessons for the disciples along the way. They had asked Jesus to increase their faith and no wonder—they were taught by Him to stop and confront when they didn't want to, reach out and restore whether or not they felt like it, and to forgive whenever and wherever they were asked to do so. That's a tall order for anybody, but Jesus taught them they could get a lot accomplished with just a little faith. He told them it's not the amount of faith but the exercising of it that brings results. The best part is the believer's faith grows stronger as we come to know Him better!

Our lesson this week will examine three powerful aspects of the life of faith that every Christian must exhibit: *thanksgiving, prayerful waiting, and humility*. There is a warning to heed in our reading about watching for the coming of the Kingdom, as well as a lesson about keeping our priorities straight in order to guard our hearts. If the goal is to bring people to Jesus, in order for us to do that, others need to see His love operating in us through faith. Ask Him to increase your faith as you draw closer to Him through the study of His Word.

Did you know

Today leprosy is commonly referred to as Hansen's disease, still incurable but treatable with the help of modern medicine. In Jesus' day it was a literal death sentence. Leviticus 13–14, gave explicit responsibility for diagnosis to the priests along with instructions for quarantine for anyone in question. If a person was pronounced with leprosy, they were required to shave their head, cover their mouth and immediately leave their town. Driven from family, home, city, and place of worship, they were forced to live out the remainder of their lives in the company of others like them, completely cut off from their loved ones.

When we read of the ten lepers standing afar off and crying out to Jesus, we must appreciate it was a frightening sight to see these ten walking dead men passionately shouting with everything they had in hopes of attracting the attention of the only One able to help them!

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

| <u>Teaching / Event</u> | <u>Scripture Text</u> | <u>Parallel Passages</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Lesson of the Tenth Leper | Luke 17:11–19 | |
| Watch for the Coming Kingdom | Luke 17:11–18:1–8 | |
| Two Ways to Pray | Luke 18:9–14 | |
| Jesus Blesses the Little Children | Luke 18:15–17 | |
| Jesus Counsels the Rich Young | Luke 18:18–30 | |
| Ruler | | |
| Jesus Knew What Lay Ahead | Luke 18:31–34 | |

First Impressions: Group Discussion

Reflect for a moment on the passages you have just read.

Respond by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

Heartbeat: Luke 18:16–17 (Memory verse)

(Write it out once in the space below. **Practice it each time** you open your lesson.)

But Jesus called them to Him and said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.'

Luke 17:11–19

The Lesson of the Tenth Leper

11 Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the
midst of Samaria and Galilee.

12 Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers,
who stood afar off.

13 And they lifted up their voices and said, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!'

14 So when He saw them, He said to them, 'Go, show yourselves to the priests.'

And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned,
and with a loud voice glorified God,

16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

17 So Jesus answered and said, 'Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?'

18 Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?'

19 And He said to him, 'Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.'

Luke 18:9–14

Two Ways to Pray

9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous,
and despised others:

10 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, "God, I thank You that I am not like other
men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.

12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess."

13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but
beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!"

14 'I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who
exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Luke 18:15–17

Jesus Blesses the Little Children

15 Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them;

but when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them.

16 But Jesus called them to Him, and said, 'Let the little children come to Me, and

do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

17 Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God

as a little child will by no means enter it.

Luke 18:31–34

Jesus Knew What Lay Ahead

31 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.

32 For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon.

33 They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.'

34 But they understood none of these things; this saying was hidden from them, and they did not know the things which were spoken.

(Scripture from the New King James Bible, © 1980 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.)

Observation: Look!

Pray. Read the Bible passage several times, trying to get a big picture of what is going on.

Left Column (Facts): Following the writer in the order he tells the story, briefly describe who is involved, what is happening, when and where the events are taking place.

Right Column (Observations): Look closely to observe details. Some questions you may ask:

- What do you know about the people involved in the story? What questions does the story raise? What sources of conflict do you see? What does Jesus identify as true and important to life?
- Put yourself in the Biblical character's shoes. What were his ambitions? How did the character relate to others or to God? What problem did he think he faced? Did Jesus identify a different problem in his life? What did he discover about God? How did he respond?
- Are there any words that you are not familiar with? Look up the definition.
- Are there words or phrases that are repeated or emphasized? Why are they key?
- Identify comparisons, such as "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." What do you know about leaven (yeast)? Identify contrasts, such as "You have heard it said...but I say to you..."
- Extra: Record information you may find in Bible dictionaries, maps, handbooks, or encyclopedias. Understanding the culture/time in which Jesus lived will help you discover the meaning of the text.

Luke 17:11–19

The Lesson of the Tenth Leper

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Luke 18:9–14

Two Ways to Pray

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Luke 18:15–17

Jesus Blesses the Little Children

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

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Jesus Knew What Lay Ahead

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

Interpretation: What does it mean?

Pray. The more time you take to observe the passage, the more you will have a basis for understanding what God's Word means. Interpretation ***always*** seeks to answer the questions, "What was God saying to the original audience?" and then, "How does that same truth relate to life today?" Asking yourself questions will help you see the spiritual lesson in the text: What does this teach me is true about God? What does it teach me is true about mankind? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to the promise? Is there an example I should follow or avoid? A spiritual lesson is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to the heart of man. Stating the lesson in a sentence of 10 words or less will help you keep it simple and memorable.

Application: How does it apply to me? Pray. Practicing Biblical truth day-to-day is the only way to grow in Christ and reflect the glory of God. To apply the spiritual lesson you have learned from the text, you have to take deliberate action. Take the time to examine yourself, and ask: Does this spiritual lesson point out error in my thoughts about God? Does it point to error in my attitude or actions? How does this lesson relate to my home life, my work, my relationships, how I spend my time, etc? What change is required? What practical steps will I take to make that change? Write your application in the form of a question to help make it personal.

Luke 17:11–19

Lesson:

Application: _____

Luke 18:9–14

Lesson:

Application: _____

Luke 18:15–17

Lesson:

Application: _____

Luke 18:31–34

Lesson:

Application: _____

Behold & Be Transformed

What did you see as you beheld God's Son?

How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

Pause . . . What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

Ponder . . . How will you put it into practice?

Pray . . . Write out your prayer and be specific.

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