

# **STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF LUKE**

## **ECWA STUDY MATERIAL FOR CHURCHES**

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## **FOREWORD**

The Bible Study material is the eight-edition developed. To reflect back, the Church Bible Study ever developed from the ECWA Theme of the year are as follows: the first edition was in 2015, the ECWA theme "For I am persuaded" from the book Roman 8.58 the Second edition was in 2016, the ECWA theme 'standing in the gap' from the book of Ezekiel 22:30: the third edition was in 2017, the ECWA theme "A generation without God from the book of judges 2:10; the fourth edition was in 2018, the ECWA Theme "joy in suffering from the book of peter 4:13; the fifth edition was in 2019, the ECWA Theme Behold I am doing a new thing" from the book of Isaiah 43: 19; the sixth edition was in 2020, the ECWA Theme "Not by might nor by power but by my

spirit" Zechariah 4:6. The seventh edition was in 2021. The Theme "Christ in you the hope for glory" Colossians 1:27. The eight edition was in 2022: the theme "Look He is coming with the clouds" Revelation 1:7. The ninth edition is for 2023: The Theme is ".... Occupy till I come" Luke 19: 13 KJV. Luke the writer of the book was a physician Colossians 4:14 and a travel companion of Paul. The goal of Luke is to assure his readers understand how Israel's rejection of Christ and the Gentiles is part of God's plan for the salvation of all mankind. Secondly, to teach them that there will be a period between his resurrection and his ascension and his return. Therefore, all those that believe in Him should get prepared by investing with the gift or talent that was given to you till he comes.

**God bless you all.**

**REV. ISHAKU YARO**

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## **HOW TO USE THIS STUDY MANUAL**

This year's study in the Gospel of Luke has been written to enrich you with what Luke experienced during his foundational years of planting Christianity with Paul as well as what his findings said about the life of Jesus' earthly ministry. The manual is for weekly church Bible study.

To get the most out of the study, the following recommendations are necessary:

1. Begin every study with prayer asking for the leading of the Holy Spirit
2. Carefully study the lesson by reading every Bible reference provided in the study before your group discussion.
3. Fill your responses in pencil to enable easy editing during your group discussion.
4. The goal of the study is to understand what God is saying in His Word. We recommend that you study each lesson carefully without a rush.

5. Acquire your personal copy of the study manual to always study it at your convenience and come up with your answers ahead of the class.
6. The version used for the study is New International Version(NIV), however, you may choose to use the version you like.
7. Approach this gospel of Luke with an open mind and the Lord will speak to your life situations.
8. We changed the pattern of the study slightly this year in that the guiding verses are in the key Ideas. The references you see in some of the discussion questions are only reference passages outside the main texts.

**May the good Lord Bless your time in His Word!**

## **LESSON 1**

**TOPIC: Background to the book of Luke**

**TEXT: Luke 1:1-4**

**AIM: To describe the background to the book of Luke**

### **INTRODUCTION**

How do you feel when you lay your hands on a book that is researched by a historian that is meticulous in giving accurate details of his findings? In the Gospel of Luke, we come across such an author. One would be tempted to think that Luke saw Jesus as other Gospel writers did but it is not so. Luke came about his findings by the help of the Holy spirit using his educational research skills in his narratives of the life of Jesus (Luke 1:1-4). Some Bible scholars believe that he may have also consulted the writing of Mark. Luke wrote from the perspective of a Gentile, communicating to his readers, who Jesus Christ is, as we will learn in his entire Gospel.

### **AUTHOR**

Luke was a Gentile believer, a medical Doctor and a ministry companion of Paul (Col. 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11; Acts 16:10, 20:6, 27:1-2). He wrote the book of Luke, particularly addressed to Theophilus (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1). He did not only write about the beginning of the Christian faith but was a partaker as well. Luke had close personal contact with those who heard Jesus and saw what he did (Luke 1:1-2).

### **DATE**

The Gospel of Luke is said to be written between 65-70AD. The actual date is not certain.

### **THE MESSAGE OF THE BOOK OF LUKE**

The book of Luke belongs to the synoptic Gospel genre. It conveys the narrative of the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ alongside Matthew, Mark. The Gospel of Luke portrays Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah of the Jews and the savior of mankind.

### **THE PURPOSE**

Luke seeks to present Jesus' attitude toward social issues. This is seen through his commitment to a prophetic poor, oppressed, widows, orphans, the ill, senior citizens, children and the physically impaired. Luke shows how Jesus affirmed the value of those denied their full acceptance in the society of his time, including women, children, Samaritans, Gentiles, tax collectors and sinners. He expresses that the Holy spirit has power to heal the sick, drive out demons and transform people.

### **RELEVANT TEACHINGS IN LUKE FOR TODAY'S CHURCH**

1. Through the book of Luke, the church is challenged to speak the truth informed by faith at all times.
2. In Luke, the Church is called to a prophetic ministry rooted in local assembly and communities that are struggling with social issues to bring inconsistencies to light.
3. Truth in Luke is the practice of theology implementing justice, showing kindness, and walking with God. Luke knows that these are not simple matters but a struggle.
4. Luke envisions the Gospel as a spirituality that emerges on a community that is committed to opposing all forms of injustice and seeks to embody God's new world.
5. It stresses the need to care about the deepest needs of others by attending to their social needs.
6. It points that believers are empowered by the Holy Spirit to carry out courageous set of good works especially towards the poor and the oppressed.

## **CONCLUSION**

The introduction to the Gospel of Luke describes the author as a medical Doctor, who wrote about the beginning of the Christian faith and also took part in that beginning with Paul. The messages of Luke are how to know the truth as it relates to correct doctrine and appropriate social action. Luke presents Jesus' attitude to social issues like the poor, oppressed, widows, orphans, the ill, senior citizens, children and the physically impaired and leaves as with six relevant issues to wrestle with today's Christianity.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Luke 4:18-19



## **LESSON 2**

**Topic: Introduction as it Relates to the Theme: "Occupy till I Come"**

**Text: Luke 19: 13 (KJV)**

**Aim: To clarify the concept of "Occupy till I Come"**

### **Introduction**

The concept of "Occupying till I come" is like a farmer who has to travel for a day and gives his son a certain portion of farm work to do while he is away, the desire of the farmer is to return and finds the portion of the farmland cultivated. The farmer will be disappointed if he returns and finds that the son has not done the work. Today's lesson seeks to help us clarify the concept of the theme: "occupy till I come."

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Understanding "occupy till I come" and "put this money to work" - "occupy" is the KJV rendition of the term that the NIV renders "put this money to work"

- a. Literal understanding- to take charge before the owner comes
- b. Textual understanding- do business or put to use what is being given
- c. Theological understanding- a Christian being relevant and productive in Kingdom business

2. Connecting 2022 and 2023 ECWA themes

a. Look. He is coming with the clouds (Rev. 1: 7)

• The second coming of Christ to be preceded by the Rapture (1 Thes. 4: 13-18) Sequence is as follows:

\* The trumpet call

\* The rapture

\* The Bema Seat Judgment

\* The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

\* Christ and the Church return to earth (Second Coming) to begin the Millennium Rule of Christ

b. Occupy till come (Luke 19: 13)

Getting busy doing Kingdom business:

- Identity your spiritual gift (s)/area of calling
- Getting involved in ministry around the particular area of your gift and calling
  - o Your profession, your career, your opportunities, your acquaintances, your connections, your areas of influence etc.: are all avenues for ministry
- Acknowledging the time of accountability

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What takes the largest portion of people's time daily?
2. How can a believer have a comprehensive understanding of the theme: "occupy till I come?"
3. What is the implication of connecting the ECWA 2022 and 2023 themes?
4. What is your spiritual gift and how is the church benefiting from it?
5. How are you preparing not to be taken unaware when the Master comes?
6. How can you help a believer who is preoccupied with things that do not add value to God's Kingdom?

**Application:** How has this year's ECWA theme challenged you to be relevant in your area of profession?

### **Conclusion**

Having considered the second coming of Christ in last year's ECWA theme, this year's theme comes as a follow up. It calls our attention to what should be our preoccupation as we await the coming of Christ. Time is of essence: The Lord is an investor who seeks return on investment from His children (John 15:16b). As we go through our study this year, the question that should be in our hearts is; how much am I making for the Master in return for His investment in me?

**Memory Verse:** 1 Corinthians 4:2

## **LESSON 3**

### **Topic: The Power of Prayer in the Midst of Doubt**

**Text: Luke 1:5-25**

**Aim: To charge believers to commune with God in unwavering faith**

### **Introduction**

Prayer is as important to the life of a believer as oxygen is to a living organism. There is power in prayer. God desires that His children will pray without doubting. Those who doubt are told not to expect anything from God (James 1:6). It is not enough to spend the time of our life praying. While we pray, we must be expectant of answers and be ready to receive them when they come. In our text, it is obvious that Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth spent almost their whole life trusting God for a child. However, when the prayer was answered, it appears as if Zechariah was either not ready or had already given up on the possibility of an answer. Today's lesson is aimed at charging us to pray by faith without wavering.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. The person of Zachariah, vs5-6
  - a. A priest from the division of Abijah
  - b. His wife, Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron
  - c. Zechariah and Elizabeth were upright and blameless
2. The couple's predicament, v7
  - a. They had no children
  - b. They were advance in age
3. Zechariah at his duty post, vs8-10
  - a. The outplay of divine guidance Zechariah's division was on duty. Zechariah was chosen to burn incense
4. Zechariah's encounter with an angel, vs11-20
  - a. The message of the angel - Elizabeth will bear a son to be named John:
    - He will be a delight to his parents and his generation
    - He will be great in God's sight

- He will be a Nazarene
- He will be filled with the Holy Spirit from the womb
- He will bring Israel back to God

b. Zechariah's doubt - they are advanced in age

c. Angel reveals his identity as Gabriel

d. Angel pronounces punishment for Zechariah

5. Zechariah came out of the temple dumb, vs 21-22

6. The pregnancy of Elizabeth, vs 23-25

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Share an experience of a time when your prayers seemed delayed.
2. Why does one's righteousness not translate into a life devoid of problems? vs 5-7, cf. Job 1:1,8.
3. Given the testimony of God about Zechariah, what do you think made him doubt?
4. What lesson can we learn from the pronouncement of punishment on Zechariah?
5. How does the story of Zechariah encourage persistence in prayer?

**Application:** From this lesson, what have you learned about God's sovereignty and prayer?

### **Conclusion**

The experience of Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth is a current reality among several believers or couples. However, God's demonstration of His Sovereignty in answer to prayer is a great encouragement for us in this lesson. Whatever your Situation or challenge might be, no matter how long it has taken or how impossible it may look before men, be encouraged that God is aware and at the appointed time He shall respond to His glory.

**Memory Verse:** James 1:6

### **LESSON 4**

**Topic: The Importance of Virginity in God's Agenda**

**Text: Luke 1:26-38**

**Aim: To encourage chastity amongst today's believers**

### **Introduction**

Has it ever dawned on you that God always reserves a few that stand out for Him in every generation? God grieved for the wickedness of man in the early chapters of Genesis (Gen. 6:5-6) but found Noah and his family to be blameless (6:9). In the days of Joshua, when his generation had been gathered to their fathers, God found judges in the midst of such a generation without God (Judges 1:10). When there was a conspiracy to Wipe away the entire Jewish race in Susa, there was an Esther to change the narrative (Esther 3:13; 4:16). When there was a need for the arrival of Baby Jesus, a virgin called Mary was found to accomplish the task (Luke 1:30) as we will learn in today's lesson.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. God sent angel Gabriel to Mary, vs26-29

a. Mary, a virgin

b. Mary pledged to be married

c. Angel Gabriel's greetings to Mary - "you are highly favored"

d. Mary was startled by the greetings 2.

God's message to Mary, vs30-33, 35-37

a. Mary has found favor with God

b. Mary will conceive in her womb and give birth to a Son:

- His name shall be Jesus
- He shall be great and called the Son of the Most High
- He shall occupy the Throne of David
- He shall reign over Israel forever

c. The Holy Spirit will come upon Mary

d. Nothing is impossible with God

3. Mary's response to God's message, vs34,38

- a. How can a virgin give birth?
- b. Mary yields to God's will

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How would you rate the level of morality today among believers?
2. What was it about Mary that would have attracted such favor from God?
3. What would have made it difficult for Mary to understand and accept the angel's message?
4. How important is it that Jesus was born by a virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit?
5. How is the choice of Mary a challenge for believers today to live in purity?
6. How did God through angel Gabriel encourage and equip Mary for the task assigned her?

**Application:** It is a fact that while virginity is a virtue every young man or woman should aspire for, it should be known that it is not enough to give one a right standing before God. There are some people who are not virgins, not as a result of promiscuous living but through certain circumstances; rape could be one instance. Believers, whether virgins or not, all enjoy the grace and mercy of God and can be used by Him.

### **Conclusion**

The choice of Mary as the vessel through which Christ came for the salvation of the human race is a challenge for all of us. There is no one without a calling. All of God's children have one assignment or another. Mary preserved herself until the time God visited her. God found a ready and willing vessel for His use. He is still in search for vessels today.

**Memory Verse: Luke 1:34**

## **LESSON 5**

**Topic: Mary's Encounter with Elizabeth**

**Text: Luke 1:39-56**

**Aim: To encourage interpersonal relationship amongst believers**

## **Introduction**

We all feel fulfilled at reconnecting with the loved ones. The angel told Mary that Elizabeth was six months pregnant, expecting to give birth to a child in her old age (Luke 1:36). This information encouraged Mary to travel from Galilee to the hill country of Judea to visit Elizabeth. At the encounter of Mary with Elizabeth, we are told that the baby in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy.

## **Key Ideas:**

1. Mary visits Elizabeth, vs39-45, 56
  - a. Mary traveled about 70 miles to visit Elizabeth. This would have taken her about two and a half days on foot.
  - b. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months
2. The song of Mary, vs 46-55
  - a. Glorified God, vs46-48a
  - b. Proclamation about herself, vs48b-49
  - c. How God handles the humble and the proud, vs50-55

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. Who do you call first when you have special news to share?
2. How would Mary have felt with the special greeting of Elizabeth? vs39-43
3. What does Mary's faith model for you? vs38-45
4. Of the attributes of God in Mary's song, which do appreciate more?
5. How does your life reflect God's concern for justice, mercy and deliverance?

**Application:** What benefits has relating with matured believers played in your life?

## **Conclusion**

Benefits in interpersonal relationships, especially with matured believers, cannot be undermined. Mary's relationship with Elizabeth, her cousin, was a great benefit to her in navigating through her spiritual experience that would have been impossible for her to handle alone. Mary was highly encouraged and impacted after Elizabeth prophesied to her in response to her greetings. It is therefore, crucial that we invest in building relationships among ourselves as believers. **Memory Verse:** Luke 1:42

## **LESSON 6**

**Topic:** The Birth of John the Baptist

**Text:** Luke 1:57-80

**Aim:** To understand the significance of John's birth



## **Introduction**

A missionary called Steve was paying a visit to Jebba village along with his team. This was in those days when there was no internet or mobile phones, and vehicles were very few. Steve and his team met with the chief and his council. The chief apologized for their inability to give the team a befitting welcome. "Next time, please send someone to inform us ahead of your coming so that we are better prepared to receive you." In this lesson, we shall study about the significance of John's birth.

## **Key Ideas:**

1. Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, vs57-66
  - a. Celebration with neighbors and relatives of Zechariah and Elizabeth
  - b. Circumcision on the eighth day
  - c. Confusion about the name to be given
  - d. Confirmation of the name by Zechariah
  - e. Zechariah, able to speak again
2. Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, vs 67-79
  - a. His prophecy concerning the birth of Jesus assures the fulfillment of the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants
  - b. His prophecy concerning his son, John -"to prepare way for the Lord"
3. John grew and became strong in spirit. v80

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. How did or would you celebrate the birth of your first child?
2. What was unusual about the birth of John that called for celebration? Luke 1:18, 57-66
3. How does the prophecy of Zechariah unfold the Old Testament prophecies about Christ?
4. What lessons can we learn from the prophecy of Zechariah?
5. What process did God take you through, leading to your Conversion?

**Application:** What is God's purpose for your life?

### **Conclusion**

John was sent to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. Right from his birth, it was obvious to all that he was a special child because of his special assignment, John played his role well and allowed Christ to take over. It is now up to us to continue to prepare the way for Christ's return.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 1:13

## **LESSON 7**

**Topic:** The Birth of Jesus

**Text:** Luke2: 1-20

**Aim:** To understand the significance of Jesus' birth

### **Introduction**

The conception and birth of Jesus Christ have remained unparalleled in history. It has never been heard that a virgin conceived prior to the advent of Jesus and never has that been repeated in history. His was a humble and lowly birth, and it was not without significance. This process has brought about the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Most High God, Creator of the universe, and Savior of the world!

### **Key Ideas:**

#### 1. The setting of Jesus' birth, vs1-7

##### a. The decree by Caesar

- All are required to return to their towns to be counted
- Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem

##### b. The delivery by Mary

- While in Bethlehem, Mary gives birth to Jesus
- #### 2. The announcement to the shepherds, vs8-21

##### a. They are in the fields guarding their sheep

##### b. The shepherds are terrified at the appearance of the angels

- The reaffirmation by the host of angels
- The revelation by the angel of the Lord: The Messiah has just been born in Bethlehem! They will find him wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a manger
- The rejoicing by the angels of the Lord

##### c. The shepherds kneel before the Baby in the manger and worship

##### d. The shepherds leave and tell everyone what has happened

##### e. Mary treasured these things in her heart and thinks about them

##### f. The Baby Jesus is circumcised and named Jesus

### **Discussion Questions:**

#### 1. What does the story of the birth of Jesus tell you about God's control of political affairs?

#### 2. How is the birth of Jesus unique? Isa. 7:14,9:6; John 1:1, 14, 3:16

3. Why was the town and place of Jesus' birth important? Matt. 2:4-6; John 7:42; Luke 2:8-18
4. Why was the incarnation of Jesus Christ necessary? Rom 8:3-4; Phil. 2:5-11; John 3:17; 1 Jn.3:8
5. How does the prompt response of the shepherds challenge you?

**Application:** Jesus was born in the manger because there was no inn, which area(s) of your life is unavailable for Him?

### **Conclusion**

The birth of Jesus Christ was not a coincidence or an afterthought, as it was all in God's plan even before the creation of the world. He came to seek and save the lost, and to show us how to live in obedience to God the Father. His birth remains unique till date.

**Memory Verse:** Isaiah 9:6

## **LESSON 8**

**Topic:** The Dedication of Baby Jesus

**Text:** Luke 2:21-40

**Aim:** To stress the importance of child dedication

### **Introduction**

Mrs. Ijeoma was a Christian community health worker sent to a riverine village to immunize the children against Polio. She heard the cry of a baby at night in one of the communities where she had to sleep. She was told that the baby was being dedicated to the river goddess by her parents. So, the child had to spend the entire night by the river. Filled with compassion, she prayed, and went to pick the child and brought her home. In the morning, the baby's parents came and saw their baby doing well, contrary to their belief that a newborn not taken to the river bank on the first night of birth would die. This led to a change in their belief, leading to their conversion to Christianity.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Baby Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth, v22  
(Lev. 12:3; cf. Gen. 17:12)
2. Jesus' first visit to the temple, vs23-24 3. The testimony of Simeon,  
vs25-35
  - a. Holy Spirit's promise fulfilled
  - b. Mary's baby is the Messiah
  - c. Simeon's prophecy
4. Anna's testimony about the child, 2:36-38

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What do you understand dedication to mean, and in what ways have people been involved in it?
2. What is the significance of dedicating our children to God? 1 Sam. 1:11; Luke 2:23; Mark 10:13-16
3. What is the implication of the commitment we are making when dedicating our children? Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4; Deut. 6:6-8
4. What impact does the prophecy of Simeon and Mary had on the audience in the temple?
5. How does Anna's prophecy complement Simeon's prophecy"?

**Application:** Having being dedicated to God while you were a child, how has that experience affecting your relationship with God?

## **Conclusion**

Jesus Christ was dedicated to God the Father in the temple, not only to fulfill the requirements of the Law, but also to set for us an example. Child dedication is very important to us as God's people because it is an acknowledgement that we have received the child as God's blessing, and that we are not only presenting the child to God, but are making a commitment to train up the child in God's way.

**Memory Verse:** Mark 10:16

## **LESSON 9**

**Topic:** Jesus' Visit to the Temple at Twelve Years

**Text:** Luke 2:41-52

**Aim:** To challenge believers to be passionate for God's work

## **Introduction**

Jesus' visit to the temple was the only recorded incident that God has given us of His experiences during His boyhood. Luke stresses Jesus' wisdom as a boy to bring his readers to realize that He was divine. There is a strong contrast between Jesus' earthly parents and His Heavenly Father. While His earthly parents were concerned about His physical safety, He was concerned about doing His Heavenly Father's work. This lesson is a challenge for believers to be more committed to God's work.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus at the Passover festival, vs 4 1-42

a. Jewish boys at the age of twelve formally joined religious community as men, responsible for keeping the Law including celebrating the Passover at Jerusalem

b. Jewish males were to go to Jerusalem three times a year, at the feasts of Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles

2. Jesus stays behind in Jerusalem unknown to His parents, VS 43-45

3. Jesus found in the temple, vs46-47

□ Amazing truth; a boy of twelve engaging teachers in the temple for three days! 4.

Mary and Joseph's anxiety contrasts with Jesus' calmness, vs 48-50

a. Mary scolding, "Why have you treated us like this?"

b. Jesus reminder, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

c. Mary and Joseph could not comprehend what Jesus was saying, vs 50 5. Jesus submits to His parents obediently, vs51-52

a. He submits to His earthly parents

b. He grows holistically: Wisdom, stature, favor with God and man

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Today when a twelve-year-old is missing, where would you likely find him?

2. What kind of home do you think Joseph and Mary had as a couple and parents? Luke 2:41-42, 51; Prov. 22:6; Matt. 22:37; 1Thes. 5:17; Psalm 122: 1

3. What lessons can we learn from the experience of Jesus' earthly parents and why do you think it took them three days to locate Him in the temple? Luke 2:43-46; Ps. 122:1

4. What do we see about the passion of Jesus Christ in His relationship with the Father? Luke 2:49, John 2:16, 4:34, 9:4, Matt. 6:33
5. In what ways should we invest in the growth and development of our children? Luke 1:80, 2:40, 51-52; 1 Sam. 2:26
6. What are the examples set for young people from the life of Jesus? Luke 2: 46-47, 51-52, 3:22; Matt. 6: 33

**Application:** How passionate are you towards God and His Work?

### **Conclusion**

Jesus was not only obedient to and passionate about the work of His Heavenly Father, but He loved and respected His earthly parents too. He grew in strength, knowledge, wisdom, and favor with God and men. He was willing at a tender age, not only to worship in God's house, but also to listen and learn from the teachers, thereby setting a good example for all young people. May our children follow the example of Jesus Christ.

**Memory Verse:** John 4:34

## **LESSON 10**

**Topic:** The Ministry of John the Baptizer

**Text:** Luke 3: 1-20

**Aim:** To challenge believers to understand and function in the areas of their calling

### **Introduction**



Dogodogo was the best man to his friend during his wedding and the bride had to be taken where the wedding was to take place. Everyone was filled with joy, although the bride had mixed feelings considering that she was leaving her parents' home. After looking at her with a smile on his face, Dogodogo said: "Cheer up and get your heart prepared to meet your groom. My responsibility is to take you to him in one piece. The moment you arrive safely to your husband, my joy will be completed and my assignment is finished." Dogodogo understood his assignment and completed it, John the Baptizer also understood his calling and prepared the way for Jesus as will be seen in this lesson.

### **Key Ideas:**

#### 1. The period of John the baptizer, vs1-2

a. Tiberius Caesar is ruler over the Roman Empire

b. Pilate is governor over Judea

C. Herod Antipas is governor over Galilee d.

Annas and Caiaphas are the high priests

#### 2. The message of John the Baptizer, vs 3-11, 15-18

a. "Repent of your sins and be baptized!"

b. "Prepare the way for the Lord!"

#### 3. The audience of John the baptizer, vs 12-20

a. The Jewish religious leaders and lay people

b. Tax collectors

c. Soldiers

d. King Herod, Antipas, and Queen Herodias

- Herod will eventually become so frustrated by John's preaching that he will put John in prison

e. The audience misunderstands John's message

- Some people feel John is the Messiah
- John declares, "One more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the implication of not understanding one's calling as a believer?
2. What does Luke mention all these political and religious leaders? Luke 3:1-2
3. What do you see as the focal point of John's ministry Luke 3:3-6, 8-9; Isa. 40:3-5
4. What is radical about the preaching of John the baptizer? Luke 3:7-14
5. What is the difference between how John views himself in relation to Christ and how some modern-day preachers do? Luke 3:15-17; John 1:19-23, 29-31, 3:26-30

**Application:** How did John's understanding of his calling help him to fulfill his ministry? What lessons can you learn from that?

### **Conclusion**

John was sent as one who was to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. He knew his mission clearly, and he faithfully played his role. One interesting thing about John was that he knew when to get off the stage and let Jesus take over. It was not about him but about Christ. May this heart of humility and glorifying Christ be in us also as we serve in God's vineyard **Memory Verse:** John 3:28

## **LESSON 11**

**Topic:** The Baptism of Jesus, Ministry and Genealogy

**Text:** Luke 3:21-38

**Aim:** To highlight the significance of Jesus' baptism, ministry, and genealogy

### **Introduction**

There are three significant events regarding the person and ministry of Jesus Christ that are featured in the text. They are His baptism, beginning of ministry and ancestry or genealogy. A good understanding of how this three connect helps appreciate who Jesus was and what He came to do on earth. It was during His baptism that the Trinity manifested to demonstrate that Jesus 'ministry was not limited to Him, but the Godhead. His ministry commencing at about thirty years of age helps in dating the timetable of Jesus' earthly ministry. The genealogy on the other hand attests to His roots and connection to the history of God's salvation history beginning with Adam. Today's lesson intends to bring all these together for our understanding and instruction.

### **Key Ideas:**

#### 1. Manifestation of the Trinity, vs21 -22

- a. Jesus is baptized
- b. The Holy Spirit descends on Jesus in the form of a dove
- c. God the Father affirms Jesus' Sonship

#### 2. The beginning of Jesus' ministry, v23a

- Jesus begins ministry at about thirty years of age

#### 3. The genealogy of Jesus, vs23b-38

- Luke traces Jesus' ancestry to Adam, who is the father of the human race. This is to emphasize that salvation is for the entire world.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why is the baptism of Jesus unique?
2. What does the manifestation of the Trinity during Jesus baptism portray?
3. Why do you think Jesus waited until He was about thirty years of age to begin His earthly ministry?
4. What key things did you find out about Christ's genealogy? Luke 3:23, 31,33-34, 37-38
5. Of what importance was Jesus Connection to Abraham, David and God? Gen. 12:3, 15: 5, 18: 18;2 Sam. 7: 12-16

**Application:** How does today's lesson help you to appreciate the deity of Jesus?

## **Conclusion**

The divinity of Jesus is not a fairy tale that cannot be proved. Facts and records as contained in today's text have further strengthened our understanding of the reality of Jesus as divine and authenticate His ministry and personality as Savior of mankind. The manifestation of the Trinity at Jesus' baptism attests to who He is and His relationship with the Father and the Spirit. Like Luke says in Luke 1: 4, this account has really proven the certainty of Jesus as author of our salvation.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 3:23

## **LESSON 12**

**Topic:** The temptation of Jesus

**Text:** Luke 4: 1-13

**Aim:** To stress that the believer's victory is in God's Word

## **Introduction**

A temptation is an attraction or desire to do something wrong or sinful. One of the highlights of Jesus' humanity is the fact that He was tempted to sin in key areas of human appetite. We look up to Him as an example of how to overcome temptation because, though He was tempted He did not yield. This lesson will take us through three major areas through which Jesus was tempted and how He overcame, to leave us an example.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus full of the Holy Spirit, vs1-2
  - a. Led into the wilderness to be tempted
  - b. For forty days, Jesus was without food
2. Strategic areas of temptation, vs3-12
  - a. Food and appetite
  - b. Power and personal attainment
  - c. Pride
3. Jesus Wins victory over temptation, v13 cf. Heb. 4:15
  - a. Satan leaves Jesus until an opportune time

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How long have you ever stayed without food?
2. What is the implication of Jesus being full of the Holy Spirit before being led to be tempted?
3. Why do you think Jesus began His ministry with fasting?
4. Of the three strategic areas of temptation, which one are believers most vulnerable to?
5. How can believers guard against the devil striking at an "opportune time?"

**Application:** In which of the three areas of temptation is the devil likely to attack you? How can you overcome?

### **Conclusion**

Temptation is a daily occurrence in the life of a believer. However, we have the word of God through which we can overcome. The three strategic areas in which believers are tempted are real because they focus on areas of human needs. Overcoming temptation in these areas can be a challenge. We rejoice however, that Jesus left for us the secret of how to daily Overcome.

**Memory Verse:** 1 Corinthians 10:13

## **LESSON 13**

**Topic:** A Prophet is without Honor in His Hometown

**Text:** Luke 4: 14-30

**Aim:** To emphasize that a believer's honor comes from God not men

### **Introduction**

A famous Hausa proverb says that the eye looks down on the person it sees every day. The story of Jesus not being honored in His hometown highlights a common human tendency. It will require boldness and tenacity for one to function as he should. This happens because the people you grew among know you; they saw your formative years, weaknesses and the likes. This makes them to see you as someone common, a mere person like them. It takes the grace of God for them to see you as God ordains and to give you the honor that is due you.

**Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, vs14-15
  - a. He returns to Galilee
  - b. News about Him spread in the entire region
  - c. He teaches in their synagogues
  - d. He is praised by everyone
2. Jesus visits Nazareth, vs 16-22
  - a. Nazareth is where Jesus was brought up; His hometown
  - b. Jesus Visits the synagogue as was His custom
  - c. Jesus reads and declares the fulfilment of Isaiah on Him
  - d. People are amazed at God's grace on Jesus
3. Opposition, vs23-30
  - a. Jesus preempts His opponents
  - b. Jesus declares that "no prophet is accepted in his hometown"
  - c. Jesus analogies and claims lead to a threat on His life
  - d. Jesus divinely evades the threat on His life

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What do you like most about your hometown?
2. What distinguishes Jesus from others as He ministers in Galilee?
3. What is significant about the time and place of Jesus' message from the book of Isaiah?
4. What message did the people get from Jesus claim that led to the opposition?

5. Why do some people castigate others because of their background as seen in the case of Jesus?

**Application:** How has today's lesson helped you to better face opposition as God fulfills His purpose in your life?

### **Conclusion**

Our background as good as it may be, can be used by the enemy to deter us from doing the will of God. The situation can be worse if the background is bad. Jesus' experience with the people who knew His background is a lesson for us to learn from as we pursue God's purpose for our lives. There is a need to be focused, bold, resolute because people's opposition can derail you from being what God ordained for you to be.

Memory Verse: Luke 4:24

## **LESSON 14**

**Topic: Jesus Demonstrates Power over Evil Spirits and sicknesses**

**Text: Luke 4: 31-44**

**Aim: To assert God's power over evil spirits and sicknesses**

### **Introduction**

In places where people are antagonistic towards the gospel, God has used miraculous healings to turn people back to Himself. A story was told of a family that was prayed for and got healed. The family went and encouraged others who had the same challenge to also go for prayer. On reaching the premises, they got healed instantly at the gate. When they eventually got to where they were



to be prayed for, they were asked to wait a while. They fell into a deep sleep while waiting. This was something they had not had for weeks due to their ill health. This led to them putting their faith in Jesus.

**Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus visits Capernaum, v31
2. Jesus teaches with authority and power, vs32-37
  - a. Evil spirits do recognize the authority of Jesus Christ over them
  - b. People are amazed at the teaching of Jesus before they are told about the authority and power to drive out evil spirits
3. Jesus heals sicknesses and drives out demons, vs38-41
  - a. Heals Simon's mother-in-law and others
  - b. Drives out demons
4. Jesus remains focused in ministry, Vs42-44
  - a. Resists the persuasion to remain in one place
  - b. Preaches to other unreached places

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What would be the challenge if you were to go back to where you grew up for ministry?
2. Share a testimony of someone who came to know the Lord through a spiritual encounter (healing or deliverance)
3. What was it about Jesus' teaching that amazed the people?
4. How well did Jesus balance His ministry of teaching/preaching, healing, and driving out of demons'?
5. From the experience of Jesus, what should determine the time and place of our ministry?
6. How can we resist the temptation to prolong our stay in a ministry base when it is time to move to other places?

**Application:** How are you challenged by Jesus' insistence to go to other places to preach in spite of the acceptance He enjoyed?

## **Conclusion**

Jesus' ministry was wholistic in nature. This is why He has given us different gifts for the ministry of the church to be wholistic also. His ministry touched on every aspect of the people's needs. He was never carried away by what the people thought. His drive was to fulfill His mandate. Being accepted or rejected by His audience/hosts did not determine what He did, where He went, or how long He stayed in a place. He was able to strike a balance in the service of God. **Memory Verse:** 1 John 3:8

## **LESSON 15**

**Topic: The Choosing of the Twelve Disciples**

**Text: Luke 5: 1-11,27-29, 6: 12-16**

**Aim: To state the role of God's choice in calling people to service**

## **Introduction**

Supposing you had a task to accomplish and don't have enough time, what would you do? Jesus began His earthly ministry knowing that He was not going to physically be on earth for long. He needed to do something that will help Him to maximize the time that He had. To fulfill His mandate, Jesus had to select men that would work with Him and learn from Him. so they could

carry on the task in His absence. Today's lesson exposes us to how Jesus went about selecting men that would carry on with the ministry after Him.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus at the Lake of Gennesaret, 5: 1-11
  - a. Jesus teaches from Simon's boat
  - b. The miracle of a catch of fish
  - c. Peter confesses his unbelief
  - d. Jesus calls Peter and his companions to "catch men"
2. Jesus calls Levi, Luke 5:27-29
3. Jesus chooses the twelve Disciples, Luke 6: 12-16
  - a. The choosing of the twelve Disciples is preceded by prayer
  - b. The twelve Disciples are designated "Apostles"
    - The term "apostle" in the Greek refers to "one sent" or an ambassador."
    - "Apostle" as designated by Jesus in reference to His Twelve Disciples however, connoted that these men Occupied a unique office, which began and ended with them. Acts states that an Apostle to be someone who physically participated in the physical earthly ministry of Christ. In this sense, there are no more Apostles today. Those who use the title today find a biblical basis only if they see it as someone "sent" to preach the gospel.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do people need to write examination and be certified to belong to professional bodies?
2. How do you imagine Peter must have felt leaving lucrative fishing profession to follow Jesus? Matt. 19:27
3. What was Jesus' intention in using Simon's boat with reference to Luke 5:4-11?
4. Why did Jesus choose Levi, a tax collector among His Apostles? Luke 18:13, 19:7
5. What is the sense in calling men who were already very busy in their various professions?

**Application:** If you had the opportunity to recruit workers today, how differently would you do it compared to what Jesus did?

## **Conclusion**

Jesus' choice of the twelve Apostles demonstrates God's willingness to give people the opportunity to serve. Serving God is a rare privilege. He calls and assigns roles to people as He deems fit. In today's lesson, Simon saw himself as unfit when he expressed his doubt at Jesus' words. God in His choice of who to call sees and knows beyond us. Therefore, let us submit to His will and allow Him to work through us.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 5:11

## **LESSON 16**

**Topic:** The Healing of the Leper and the Paralytic

**Text:** Luke 5: 12-26

**Aim:** To stress Jesus' authority over sin and sicknesses

### **Introduction**

When we are confronted with challenges of varying kinds, and go before God in prayer, our desire is to receive and express answer resolving the problems. This is the situation with the main characters in our passage today as we will see. The joy of the leper and the paralytic after receiving their healings could not be quantified. They received beyond what they expected because they were forgiven of their sins. **Key Ideas:**

1. The leper's plea to be healed, vs12-15

- a. Leprosy was not just considered a skin disease but a spiritual and social one as well

b. The leper must have really wanted to be healed to break the social protocol and approach Jesus

c. Jesus heals the leper

d. News of the healing of the leper spread

2. Jesus often retreated for prayer, v 16 3.

The paralytic healed, vs 17-26

a. The audience

- Pharisees and teachers of the Law from the entire Palestine
- The paralytic and those carrying him
- Spectators

b. The presence of the power of God to heal the sick

c. The faith of the paralytic and those carrying him to Jesus

d. Jesus' healing process - He healed the spiritual sickness of the paralytic to reach the physical;  
"Friend, your sins are forgiven" (v20)

4. The opposition, vs21-24

a. Jesus thought to be blasphemous by the Pharisees and teachers of the Law

b. Jesus counters the thinking of the Pharisees and teachers of the Law

5. The worship, vs25-26

a. The paralytic goes home healed and praising God

b. The people are amazed, filled with awe and testify to God's remarkable work

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What illness are you most afraid of catching and why?

2. Who are the "lepers" where you live and how would you touch them for Christ?

3. What catches your attention about the gathering of the opposition (Pharisees and teachers of the Law) in v17?

4. Friends of the paralytic came for physical healing; why did Jesus raise the issue of forgiveness?

5. What motivated the people to worship God?

**Application:** We have spiritual challenges that are like leprosy and paralysis, how are you challenged from this lesson to seek appropriate help?

### **Conclusion**

The leper and the friends of the paralytic in our lesson expressed faith in the fact that Jesus alone has solution to their situation. They surmounted all challenges as they sought to see Jesus. Their faith was rewarded as both of them enjoyed spiritual and physical healings. Jesus was not deterred by the gang up of the Pharisees and teachers of the Law. In the end, worship was given to God by those who were healed and those who were eyewitnesses.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 5:20

## **LESSON 17**

**Topic:** Jesus' Perspective of Fasting

**Text:** Luke 5: 33-39

**Aim:** To state the importance of fasting

### **Introduction**

Fasting is a willful abstinence from food and other leisure for a given period of time. This is done for the purpose of seeking God's face through prayer. It is not an exercise that should be done arbitrarily or for show. Unlike the fasting of the disciples of John the Baptizer and the Pharisees, which is structured towards a rigid pattern, Jesus introduces a more appropriate way as we shall see in this lesson.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus questioned on the issue of fasting, v33

☐ John's disciples and the Pharisees fast, except Jesus'

## 2. Jesus' response, vs34-39

- a. Guests of a groom do not need to fast, except in his absence
- b. The old and new wineskins old wineskin refers to traditionally held concepts that cannot accommodate new innovation. The new wineskin, on the other hand is elastic and accommodating. The two cannot work together.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. Why do people fast?
- 2. Why is Jesus questioned about fasting?
- 3. What does Jesus mean in Luke 5:34-35?
- 4. What is the danger of patching the old wineskin using the new?
- 5. Why should fasting not be used as a mark of spirituality? Luke 18:9-14

**Application:** How has this lesson changed your perspective towards the appropriate way to fast?

### **Conclusion**

From Jesus' response to the question of the Pharisees as seen in this lesson; fasting as a spiritual exercise must be approached based on needs, not emotions or a mere activity. We are challenged as believers to allow God to lead us in our approach to fasting. While the Pharisees were concerned about the outward observance and regulations to fasting, Jesus called their attention to the fact that acts of piety should be spiritually motivated. This should be a lesson for us today. **Memory Verse:** Luke 5:35

## **LESSON 18**

**Topic: Jesus, Lord of the Sabbath**

**Text: Luke 6:1-11, 13:10-17**

**Aim: To educate believers that Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath**

### **Introduction**

Mr. Steve owned a huge company in five different countries. He built this company from scratch. He designed the structures, set the company policies, guidelines, laws, practices, etc. Everything about the company is at his fingertips. One day he decided to visit one of the companies in Sweden. As he was taking a tour of the plant, one of the new employees approached him and tried to tell him how things are run in the company and giving the impression that he is the owner of the company. Unknown to him, he was talking to the owner of the company, who is the brain behind its establishment. Today's lesson will educate us on what Jesus meant by the Son of man is Lord of the Sabbath.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Disciples desecrate the Sabbath, vs1-2 cf. Exo. 20:8-11

a. The Sabbath was a day of rest. Work was not permitted; plugging the heads of grain was considered work by the Pharisees



2. Jesus heals on the Sabbath, vs3-11, 13:10-17

a. The man with shriveled hand in the Synagogue

b. The woman crippled by a spirit for eighteen years 3. Jesus, Lord of the

Sabbath, vs5- cf. Matt. 5: 17

a. He came to fulfill the Law, not abolish it

b. He confronted the hypocrisy of the Pharisees in keeping the Sabbath

- David and his companions ate consecrated bread (Luke 6:3-4)
- The Sabbath is meant for doing good not evil; to save life, not to destroy it (Luke 6: 9)
- The Sabbath is meant for the setting of people free from bondage (Luke 6: 15-17)

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. When you were a child, what family rules did you consider to be unfair? And how do you view it now?
2. What in your own opinion is the interpretation of the law of the Sabbath? Exodus 20:8; Luke 6:1-2
3. How does Jesus clarify the Sabbath issue?
4. How are some of us like the Pharisees in attitude as seen in verse 7?
5. Why does Jesus provoke the Pharisee's wrath and not wait a day longer?
6. Why were the Pharisees not concerned about the relief gotten by the shriveled man?

**Application:** In today's lesson, why must we be concerned at doing good than following mere rules?

### **Conclusion**

Though it is good to follow rules, doing so must be with a clear intention to add value to human lives. Jesus demonstrated this in His interaction with the Pharisees, where He showed that the mere

observance of rules should not take precedence over saving human lives. This must be our goal in ministry; to help people and build their lives, not just keep rules.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 6:5

## **LESSON 19**

**Topic:** Principles for Christian Living

**Text:** Luke 6: 17-49

**Aim:** To challenge Christians to live by biblical principles

### **Introduction**

The practice of some herbalists today presents concerns. A particular herb is advertised to have potency for curing five ten ailments. This is done many times without standard prescription as people are just asked to drink enough. Many times, this results in more problems. Living by Christian principles, in the same vein cannot be practiced alongside worldly principles. In today's lesson, we will consider principles for living the Christian life.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Blessings and woes, vs 20-26

- a. Blessings: the blessed life of those who hunger for the things of God
- b. Woes: the misery of those who are supposedly enjoying life now outside Christ

2. Love for enemies, vs27-36

- Do good to those who are considered your enemies - love them without expecting same in return

3. Judging others, vs3 7-42

- Do not condone evil but judging others should not be done hypocritically

4. A tree and its fruit, vs43-45

- A tree is known by its fruit

5. The wise and foolish builders, vs46-49

- A solid foundation lasts longer than a shallow one

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How do the principles of living taught by Jesus compare with those promoted everyday on TV?
2. What four qualities ought to characterize believers? Vs 20-23
3. Who is Jesus addressing in vs24-26 and how would you define each warning?
4. How would you reconcile Jesus instruction to love our enemies in the light of current realities?
5. How do you point the faults of others without being Judgmental?
6. What lessons are there to learn from the two builders?

**Application:** How has today's lesson challenged you to live by biblical principles?

**Conclusion**

Jesus' call for us to live by biblical principles cannot be overemphasized. Our love for God should serve as the basis for which we live and relate with others. Living by godly principles brings blessings, while curses follow those who live contrary We must align our hearts to living in such a way that pleases God.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 6:41

## **LESSON 20**

### **Topic: The Faith of the Centurion**

**Text: Luke 7:1-10**

**Aim: To challenge Christians to have faith in God's Word**

### **Introduction**

We live in a generation that people travel long distances to have a "man of God" or "woman of God" lay hands and pray for them over a particular situation in their lives. Somehow many Christians have not come to the realization that they can approach God personally and directly with their issues/problems. Today's lesson is intended to challenge us to personally approach God by faith through His Word on issues that worry us.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus in Capernaum, vs1-5
  - a. A Centurion - a Roman army officer in charge of a hundred soldiers
  - b. The Centurion's servant is actually his slave as rendered in the New American Standard Bible. A slave was regarded as property of his owner. There was ordinarily no reason for the Centurion to care about a "slave." Jesus, on the other hand, condescended to the level of a common slave when He healed him.
2. Jesus receives the Centurion's message not to bother going to his house but to just speak, vs6-8
  - a. Message shows the Centurion's humility
  - b. Message shows the Centurion's faith in the healing power of Jesus
3. Jesus heals the Centurion's servant, vs9-10
  - a. Jesus commends the faith of the Centurion
  - b. Centurion's servant found healed

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What situation have you faced in life that has defied human solution? How did you get over it?
2. What is the testimony of the Jewish elders about the Centurion?
3. How would you describe the personality of the Centurion?
4. What encouragement do you think the writer of this book, Luke, and the recipient, Theophilus, who were both Gentiles, would have received about the attitude of the Centurion, a Gentile?
5. What is captivating about the centurion's faith and how is it rewarded?

**Application:** Describe a time when you surrendered in order for Jesus to accomplish His will in your life.

**Conclusion**

The Centurion in our lesson, being a Gentile, demonstrated a strong faith in Jesus' ability to heal his slave. His humility to have cared so much for his slave as he did, is a lesson each one of us has to emulate. He surrendered totally to Jesus and his faith was rewarded through the healing of his slave. His testimony must have served as a great encouragement to Luke the writer and Theophilus, the recipient who were fellow Gentiles.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 7:9

## **LESSON 21**

**Topic: The Parable of the Sower**

**Text: Luke 8:1-15**

**Aim: To sensitize Christians to be receptive to the Word of God**

### **Introduction**

Farming is one of the difficult occupations in the world. It involves a lot of technical expertise to have a good harvest. The assumption that every seed sowed, will germinate, grow and produce may not necessarily be possible in all cases. This lesson focuses on the soil, which is a key component in determining any yield. It seeks to sensitize Christians on how to be receptive in order for God's Word to yield in them.

Key Ideas:

1. Jesus and His team, vs1-3

a. The twelve Disciples

b. Women:

- Those who benefitted from Jesus' ministry
- They were supporting Jesus' ministry through their own means

2. Jesus' parable, vs 4-10

a. Seed that fell along the path

b. Seed that fell on the rock

c. Seed that fell among thorns

d. Seed that fell on good soil 3. Parable explained, vs11-15

a. Seed represents God's Word

b. Seed that fall along the path - those who hear the Word but do not believe

c. Seed that fall on the rock - those who hear the Word and receive it with joy but fall away during trying times

- d. Seed that fall among thorns - those who hear, receive it but the attractions of the world stop them from maturing
- e. Seed that fall on good soil - those who hear the word, receive and retain it, persevering through hard times to produce good crops

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What does it take for a farmer to get a good yield?
2. Who were Jesus' travel companions and what is striking about them?
3. identify the four different kinds of soil and how each represents believers today?
4. What should believers do to ensure that they remain the good soil?
5. Why did Jesus use parables for most of His teaching?

**Application:** What kind of soil are you?

**Conclusion**

The human heart is very sensitive, hence, the need to guard it with all diligence. The Sower in our lesson did his part by sowing the seed, while the various soils determined the outcomes. As believers, we must strive to be the good soil to ensure that God's Word finds a conducive atmosphere in our hearts and fulfill its eternal purpose.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 8:15

## **LESSON 22**

**Topic: Sending of the Twelve**

**Text: Luke 9: 1-10**

**Aim: To challenge the church to take up the mandate of sending their members to evangelize**

### **Introduction**

One of the greatest privileges God has entrusted to us is the work of mission. Jesus told His disciples, "you shall be my witnesses" (Acts I:8). It is obvious that we are Christians today because someone reached out to us. We should not take the opportunity for sharing the gospel for granted. Our text today is a reminder of what we are left to do; we should be deliberate in doing it.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. The disciples sent out to preach the gospel, vs 1-2
  - They are equipped for the task
2. The disciples instructed not to carry anything for their mission trip, vs3-5
3. The disciples engage in mission, v6
  - Going to villages preaching and healing everywhere
4. Herod the tetrarch is intimidated, vs7-9
5. The disciples give report of their ministry, v10

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. If you had the opportunity to market a product, what would it be? Why?
2. How did Jesus equip the disciples for the task?
3. What was the purpose of carrying very little to the mission field?
4. Why were the disciples specifically sent to villages?
5. What intimidated Herod the tetrarch?
6. Why did Jesus and His disciples go on a retreat a retreat after their return?



**Application:** Why do you think it is important for Churches to send out members for evangelism?

### **Conclusion**

No believer is exempted from the task of Sharing the gospel with the lost. The mandate to preach the gospel is a great privilege that every church needs to take seriously. There is joy that awaits us as we move in obedience to the Great Commission mandate. We must not allow anything to hinder us.

**Memory Verse:** Acts 1:8

## **LESSON 23**

**Topic:** Feeding of the Crowd

**Text:** Luke 9: 11-17

**Aim:** To encourage believers to trust God for their daily needs

## **Introduction**

A story is told of a man who was lost in the bush. While later describing his experience, he spoke of how fearful he was and he had even finally knelt and prayed. Someone asked him, "Did God answer your prayer?" He responded, "oh, no! Before God had a chance, a guide came along and showed me the way out." Like this man, many people are blind to God's daily provisions to them. Today's lesson will help us to depend on God.

## **Key Ideas:**

1. The crowd follows Jesus. v11
  - ☐ Jesus attends to them
2. The need for food and lodging for the crowd, v12-15
  - a. The disciples present a need to Jesus
  - b. Jesus tasks the disciples to meet the need
3. Provision of food for the crowd, vs16-17
  - a. Using five loaves of bread and two fish
  - b. Fed about five thousand men, excluding women and children (Matt. 14:21)
  - c. Twelve baskets full of broken pieces of bread were leftover

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. With food shortages around the world, what do you imagine God is doing?
2. What do you think motivated the crowd to follow Jesus?
3. How do you understand the different perspectives of Jesus and the disciples towards the crowd?
4. How did Jesus prove that God is aware of our needs when He provided for the crowd?
5. How do you think the disciples felt when they collected the leftovers?

**Application:** How are you challenged by this lesson to daily trust God to meet your needs?

## **Conclusion**

The joy we have when our needs are met cannot be quantified. God is not only sensitive to our needs but is over willing to meet them. Though the disciples in our lesson did not know how the need of the crowd would be met, Jesus did it beyond their imagination. Trust Him to meet your everyday needs.

**Memory Verse:** Philippians 4:19

## **LESSON 24**

**Topic:** Jesus' Identity Revealed

**Text:** Luke 9:18-36

**Aim:** To buttress that Jesus is "The Christ of God"

### **Introduction**

The question of identity is intriguing because it addresses our core humanity. Our identity is not hinged on what we say about ourselves, or what others say about us but on who God says we are. When we fail to define ourselves along this line of thinking, we struggle with identity crises. Jesus' inquiry to His disciples "who do the crowds say I am", did not emanate from identity crises; it

buttressed the core of His person as confessed by Peter. In this study, we shall explore the details of seeing Jesus as the Christ of God as opposed to the assumptions of the crowds.

**Key Ideas:**

1. Dialogue on the identity of Jesus at the place of prayer, vs18-21

a. The crowds' view

b. The disciples' view

c. Peter's confession 2. Jesus prediction, v22

a. His suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection 3

The identity of a disciple, vs23-27

a. Self-denial

b. Bearing reproach and threat to life for Christ daily

4. The identity of Jesus revealed at the place of prayer, vs28-36

a. The witnesses - Peter, John and James

b. Jesus transfigured

c. Moses and Elijah appear and speak about Jesus departure

d. The witness of the Father

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Who are you?

2. Why was Jesus interested in what people and the disciples thought of Him?

3. Why is Peter's confession regarded as the greatest confession?

4. What do the suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection of Jesus reveal about His identity?

5. What is the significance of the appearance of Moses, Elijah and the Voice?

**Application:** How has this lesson facilitated your understanding of the person of Jesus the Christ and your identity in Him?

## **Conclusion**

Over the years' people have held various views about the identity of Jesus Christ. Pilate said, "I find no guilt in this man." John Stuart Mill refers to Him as, "the guy of humanity," the French atheist, Renan as "the greatest among the sons of men," Turbi as "Ancestor." And some in our day have called Him the ultimate Superstar. Our view of Jesus' identity has earthly and eternal implications and consequences. It ought not to be an assumption but must be accurately rooted in divine revelation.

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 1:21

## **LESSON 25**

**Topic:** The Inability of Jesus' Disciples to Cast Out a Demon

**Text:** Luke 9:37-45

**Aim:** To challenge believers to assert their God-given authority over demons

### **Introduction**

The story in our text resonates with the experience of many parents whose children are suffering from convulsion. Today, it is common for Christians to limit their perception of convulsion to a medical problem. It is interesting to note that this father did not see his son's predicament as merely a health challenge that required medication; instead he saw it as a demonic attack aimed at destroying his only child. He begged the disciples of Jesus to heal him but they couldn't. Today's lesson seeks to address the problem of lack of faith.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. The plight of a man with an only son, vs 38-40
  - a. The son is possessed by an evil spirit

- b. The disciples are unable to heal the possessed son
- 2. The response of Jesus, vs 41-42
  - a. Jesus expresses His disappointment at people's lack of faith
  - b. Jesus casts out the evil spirit
- 5. The response of the crowd, v43
  - All amazed at the greatness of God
- 4. Jesus predicts His death, vs44-45

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Think of a time when you were left in charge at home or work and things got out of hand. What happened?
2. How would you feel if you were one of the disciples that failed?
3. Why was Jesus disappointed at His disciples' inability to cast out the evil spirit?
4. Considering the fact that ECWA believes and teaches the priesthood of all believers (1 Pet. 2:9-10), how will that motivate you to pray for those who are sick and demonized?
5. After the healing, what does Jesus teach His disciples?

**Application:** How has this lesson helped you to assert your God-given authority over demons?

### **Conclusion**

Failure and disappointment are often an experience witnessed in so many life situations; masterservant, teacher-student, parents-children, and the Lord-believers. Seeing the failure of the disciples to cast out demons and how Jesus was greatly disappointed, shows the lot of several believers today not only in the matters of demon casting and healing but in every aspect of their Christian engagement. If the Lord were to assess us today, what would have been His findings; disappointed or impressed? Our take home today should be, "in what area am I failing the Lord and what practical steps must I take?"

**Memory Verse:** Mark 3:15

## **LESSON 26**

**Topic:** Jesus sends out the Seventy-two

**Text:** Luke 10:1-24

**Aim:** To emphasize on the practical experience of Jesus' disciples

### **Introduction**

When we read about the experience of the seventy-two, which Jesus sent out to do exploits, we are often thrilled about the report they brought back: "even the demons submit to us in your name." Unfortunately, it is clear that we no longer have much of such testimonies among believers in most of our churches. Today's lesson seeks to motivate and challenge believers to have practical experiences of power encounter as they advance God's Kingdom.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus commissions the seventy-two vs 1-3
  - a. Send them two by two
  - b. There is shortage of laborers in the field

c. He forewarns them

2. Jesus instructs the disciples, vs4-11

a. Travel light and avoid distractions

b. A worker is worthy of his wages

c. Heal and proclaim God's kingdom

d. The Gospel is not to be enforced

3. The plight of rejecting the Gospel, vs12-16

□ Condemnation of cities that rejected the warning from God 4.

The seventy-two returns with a feedback, vs17

a. Returned with joy

b. Testifies of supernatural enablement 5. The response of Jesus,  
vs.18-24

a. Jesus describes the humiliation of Satan

b. Jesus assures them of victory of the enemy

c. Jesus expresses joy and fulfilment

d. The experience of the disciples was a rare privilege

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why did Jesus send out the disciples in pairs'?

2. What is the significance of Jesus sending the disciples ahead?

3. What are the hazards of working in the mission field? v3

4. What are the possible consequences of those who reject the gospel today?

5. How does the feedback of the disciples motivate you towards missions? (Matt. 28:20)

6. What are the privileges of knowing Christ as Lord and Savior?



**Application:** Since the time of Jesus there is always shortage of laborers. What practical steps is your church taking to increase laborers for the harvest?

## **Conclusion**

One of the greatest challenges of the church is that she does more of talking rather than walking the talk. The aftermath experience of the seventy-two in today's lesson is enough motivation for soul winning. They say experience is the best teacher, the skill for soul winning is one that can never be developed in the four walls of the church but in the field.

**Memory Verse:** John 14:12

## **LESSON 27**

**Topic:** Helping the People in Need

**Text:** Luke 10:25-37

**Aim:** To buttress the necessity of helping those in need.

## **Introduction**

Loving our neighbors and supporting those in need of our help is something that is easier said than done! Jesus however portrayed attending to those in need of our help as a vital aspect of our relationship with God. It is important to note that loving God entails helping those in need around us. It is strange when believers claim to love God and yet struggle to love and care for others who need help. Today's study buttresses the importance of helping those in need.

## **Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus tested by an expert of the law, vs25, 29
  - a. Criteria for eternal life
  - b. Criteria for being a neighbor

2. Jesus' response, vs26, 30-36 cf. Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9-10

a. Jesus refers him to the law

b. He gives a parable

3. The response of the expert, vs27,37

a. The expert recites the law theoretically

b. The expert of the law is enlightened

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What excuses do people give as a reason for not helping others?

2. Why does Jesus answer with a story instead of a straightforward response?

3. Given the racial tension between Jews and Samaritans, what is unusual about the Samaritan in our text?

4. How would you explain the action of each character in the Story as it relates to our experience of helping people? Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9-10

5. With whom would you identify most in the story and why?

**Application:** What group of people would you struggle to consider as neighbors and how has this lesson help to change your perspective?

### **Conclusion**

Most believers today are not really different from the experts of the law. Many believers care less about the needy, hence we find it hard to lighten our world. It is often said: "people do not care how much you know until they know how much you care." This saying resonates with the point Jesus made to the expert of the law. One of the ways we can have positive impact in the world is when we become intentional about our social responsibility.

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 7:12

## **LESSON 28**

**Topic: Only One Thing Needed**

**Text: Luke 10:38-42**

**Aim: To encourage believers to focus on what is needed most.**

### **Introduction**

One of the greatest threats to our spirituality is the business that stems from the way we define ourselves in terms of achievements and accomplishments. In our culture, we relate time largely to efficiency and productivity. We are more inclined to use time to accomplish results rather than enhance relationships. The world tells us that what we achieve and accomplish is determined by who we are, but the scripture teaches that who we are in Christ should be the basis for what we do. In our lesson today, Martha's priority was on the activity of attending to Jesus while Mary's focus was on building relationship with Him.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus at the house of Martha and Mary, v38
2. Mary seats and listens to the word of the Lord, v59
  - Mary chose relationship over activities

3. Martha was distracted by all her preparations, v40

- Martha chose activities over relationship
- Martha reports Mary to Jesus

4. Jesus' response to Martha, vs41-42

- Jesus draws Martha's attention to the most needful
- Jesus identifies Martha's worry and concern
- Mary's choice will not be taken away from her

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the one-character trait that family?
2. What is it that distinguishes the choice of Mary from that of Martha
3. In today's church setting, who will be rated more spiritual, Mary or Martha? Why?
4. In what area of your life do you need more balance between activity and spirituality?

**Application:** Jesus said that Martha was worried about many things. What are you worried or upset about right now that the group can pray with you on?

### **Conclusion**

Today's lesson is not in any way an encouragement for laziness, irresponsibility or discouragement towards being hospitable. Jesus Himself encouraged work in John 9: 4a and hospitality in Matthew 25:40. The emphasis is in maintaining balance between activity and spirituality (spending time to build intimacy with the Lord). Our goal should be on how to be a type of believer who doesn't use time that is meant to be with the Lord for another thing, even if it were to be in running errand Jesus like Martha.

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 27:4

## **LESSON 29**

**Topic: Jesus Teaches on Prayer**

**Aim: To guide believers on the right attitude towards prayer**

**Text: Luke 11: 1-13**

### **Introduction**

In His teaching on prayer, our Lord Jesus pointed out the right attitude believers must cultivate towards prayer. Some of the issues Jesus highlighted include: our obligation to both God and man, persistence in prayer, and God's gift of the Holy Spirit to those who ask. Knowing how to pray rightly is the beginning of having answers to our prayers. Today's study focus on understanding Jesus' teaching on prayer.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus shows the example of praying, v1a
2. The disciples' request to be taught how to pray, v1b
3. Jesus provides a prayer template, vs2-4
4. Jesus encourages persistence, selfless and specific in prayer, Vs 5-10
5. Jesus compares earthly fathers to the Father in heaven, vs11-13

- a. Earthly fathers cannot give snake for fish, or scorpion for egg - though evil
- b. Heavenly Father will much more give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What motivated the disciples to ask Jesus to teach them to pray?
2. What is the difference between teaching how to pray and teaching to pray
3. Identify the issues raised in Jesus' prayer template. Which ones relate to God and which relate to us?
4. How do prayer and forgiveness relate?
5. What does the parable in vs5-8 teach us about prayer?
6. What does the comparison about earthly fathers and the heavenly Father teach us about answers to prayer?

**Application:** In today's teaching on prayer, what aspect challenges you to pray more?

### **Conclusion**

It is said that prayer is something that is rather caught than taught. In other words, prayer is not something we should merely talk about but something we should be caught doing. In today's lesson, Jesus shows an example of prayer not by teaching the disciples how to pray but by a lived-out constant and consistent prayer lifestyle. Persistence in prayer and the loving heart of our heavenly Father are two key things we must not miss out from today's lesson.

**Memory Verse:** Romans 8:26

## **LESSON 30**

**Topic: A Divided Kingdom Cannot Stand**

**Text: Luke 11:14-28**

**Aim: To warn against disunity in the body of Christ as we "occupy**

### **Introduction**

Obi's church was planning for an open-air crusade in the public-school field of their community. Obi had been sent to government ministry to take permission for the use of the venue. Reporting to his pastor, Obi said, "to my greatest surprise, the government official that eventually assisted us to secure the venue was a non-Christian. One of the officers who apparently was a believer publicly told us that if she allowed us, it might hinder her plan to establish a branch of their denomination in the community." In this lesson, we will study the danger of disunity in the body of Christ.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus casts out a mute demon, v14 2.

Pharisees falsely accuse Jesus, vs 15-16

a. Beelzebub - the prince of demons. The Jews regarded Beelzebub as an embodiment of all that is evil and satanic.

3. Jesus' response to the accusation, vs17-26

- a. Kingdom divided against itself
- b. Casting out demons Signifies the presence of God's Kingdom
- c. An analogy of a "strong" and the "stronger" man 4. The reaction of a woman to Jesus' response,  
vs27-28

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1. How do we understand the idea of a divided kingdom within Christendom?
- 2. What was the response of the crowd and the Pharisees to the healing of the demonized man?  
Luke 11: 14-16 cf. Matt 12:22-24
- 3. Why do you think Jesus was accused of using the spirit of Beelzebub?
- 4. Who is a "strong" and the "stronger" man? How can the "strong" man be subdued?
- 5. How is disunity amongst us affecting our being productive in God's service?
- 6. What should be our response to people who are demonized?

**Application:** How has this lesson challenged you to ensure that the Kingdom of God remains united?

**Conclusion**

It is true that any house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus, while responding to the accusation of the Pharisees made this very clear. If the church will make progress and fulfill its mandate of occupying before the Lord comes, believers must unite in purpose and work as one else the enemy will take advantage of our division and wreak havoc on us.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 11:17



## **LESSON 31**

**Topic: The Six Woes**

**Text: Luke 11:37-54**

**Aim: To avoid practices that can bring woe**

### **Introduction**

"Woe" is an exclamation of grief, sorrow, misery, adversity, distress, pain etc. In the context of today's text, Jesus pronounces woes on the Pharisees and teachers of the Law for their greed, wickedness, and foolishness. Instead of repenting, these leaders see Jesus' pronouncements as an insult and seek ways to trap Him. This study highlights Jesus' six woes and draws our attention on how to avoid them.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus in the home of a Pharisee, vs37-41
  - a. The Pharisee observed that Jesus did not wash His hands before eating
  - b. Jesus pointed out the greed, wickedness and foolishness of the Pharisees
2. The three woes against the Pharisees, vs42-44
  - a. Neglecting justice and love of God
  - b. Love for position and recognition

- c. For being deceptive
- 3. The three woes against the experts in the Law, vs45-52
  - a. For being taskmasters
  - b. For aiding and abating evil
  - c. For substituting the truth for lies

**Note:** The Pharisees were members of the Jewish sect of the intertestamental period noted for strict observance of rite and ceremonies of the written Law and for insistence on the validity of their own oral traditions concerning the Law. The experts of the Law (Scribes) are part of the Pharisees, however, they are ones who expound, interpret, and teach the Law.

- 4. The reaction of the Pharisees and teachers of the law vs53-54

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How can Jesus' pronouncements of woes be understood in today's church context?
2. What is Jesus' basic point about the Pharisees? vs39-41
3. What key lessons can we learn from Jesus' pronouncement of woes on the Pharisees? vs42-44
4. Why do you think the experts of the Law see Jesus' woes as an insult? v45 cf. Matt. 23: 1-3; 1 Tim. 5:20
5. How would you describe Jesus' approach in confronting the religious authorities?

**Application:** How would you henceforth respond to correction/rebuke and in what ways must you avoid bringing woes on yourself?

### **Conclusion**

When Jesus called out woes on the Pharisees and teachers of the Law, He did it from a loving heart. The attitude of the Pharisees and experts of the Law (greed, wickedness and foolishness), in today's lesson can be compared to the attitude of many believers. When your weakness is pointed, the essence is for you to admit and change to avoid the negative consequences in life. Even though we are in a dispensation of grace, we must watch out on every form of hypocrisy that can lead to woes upon ourselves.

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 11:15

## **LESSON 32**

### **Topic Jesus' Teaching on Greed**

**Aim: To warn believers against greed**

**Text: Luke 12:13-21**

### **Introduction**

Greed (covetousness) is a strong desire for another person's possession. It can also be a strong craving for material things more than God. The greatest danger of greed is that it breeds all other sins such as stealing, fighting, killing etc. A greedy person, even if he is serving God, is more interested in what he gains. Speaking of such a person, the Apostle Paul said "their god is their stomach (Phi. 3:19). This lesson therefore seeks to warn us against greed.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Guard against all kinds of greed, vs13-15
- 2 A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions, 15b
3. Lessons from the parable of the rich fool, vs 16-20

### **Positive:**

- a. Hardworking
- b. A planner C. Ambitious

**Negative:**

- a. Self-centeredness
  - b. Planning without God
  - C. Not conscious of the brevity of life
  - d. God describes such a person as a fool
4. A call to be rich towards God, v21

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How does greed manifest in the request of the man in the crowd? Luke 12:13
2. How do we guard against greed? Prov. 4:23, Eccl. 5:10, 1 Tim. 6:6-10
3. How ungodly is the attitude of the rich fool? Luke 12:16-20, James 4:13-15; Ps. 14:1a
4. In what way (s) can you be rich towards God? Luke 12:21, Ps. 90:12
5. Discuss how greed manifests among believers today

**Application:** Why was God not happy with the rich fool and what lessons can you learn from this?

**Conclusion**

God has made provision for all of our needs in accordance with His riches through Jesus Christ. There is no provision for satisfying our greed. We can become greedy in ways that may appear very innocent like the two persons in our study. We brought nothing into this world and we will take nothing out of it. The best way to deal with greed is to become rich towards God, i.e. having God at the center of our life and plans.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 12:15

## **LESSON 33**

**Topic: Warning Against Worrying**

**Aim: To teach ways to Overcome worry**

**Text: Luke 12: 22-34**

### **Introduction**

Worry is described as a state of being anxious or troubled over actual or potential problems. It has so many negative consequences that range from spiritual to physical. A worried person finds it difficult to focus on God. According to health experts, worry if not checked can lead to illnesses such as high blood pressure, stroke and many others. This lesson will teach us how to depend on God rather than worry.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus warns against worry, vs22-23
  - a. Don't worry about life
  - b. Don't worry about food
  - c. Don't worry about body
2. Lessons from nature, vs24,27,28
  - a. God feeds the birds that do not sow or reap
  - b. God clothes the flowers and grass
3. The folly of worry, vs25, 26, 29-30

- a. Worry does not add value to life
- b. Worry reduces us to the level of pagans
- 4. Remedy to worry, vs51 -54
  - a. Seek God and His Kingdom
  - b. Don't be afraid of lack
  - c. Invest in eternity
  - d. God has promised to provide

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What causes worry?
2. Why is it difficult not to worry about life? Ps. 39:5
3. What lessons about worry can we learn from nature? Ps. 147:9
4. Why is worrying an act of foolishness? Phil. 4:6
5. What steps do you take when trapped with worry?

**Application:** How has this lesson shed light on the foolishness of worrying?

### **Conclusion**

Worrying is almost inevitable due to our human weaknesses. Today's lesson is a strong call to believers to depend on God who has promised to meet all our needs. None of us by worrying can add any value to our lives or provide for our needs if God does not step in to help us. To worry is to be foolish. Let's depend on God.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 12:25

## **LESSON 34**

**Topic: Be Watchful as You "Occupy"**

**Text: Luke 12: 35-48**

**Aim: To reiterate the need for watchfulness as we occupy**

### **Introduction**

To be watchful is to be observant or attentive. It is a state of preparedness to avoid being taken unaware. There is a connection between watchfulness and occupying. The reason why many believers do not occupy for the Master is that they are not watchful. There are a lot of happenings around us that point to the fact that the coming of the Master (the Lord Jesus Christ) is very close. However, it takes one who is watchful to discern this.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Be ready for service, vs35-40
  - a. Keep your lamps burning - a call to be alert and ready
  - b. Be found watching when the Master comes
2. Reward for faithful service, vs41-44
3. Reprimand for unfaithful service, vs45-48

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What does it require to be a faithful watchman'?

2. What should be the attitude towards watchfulness? Col. 3:23-24; 1 Pet. 1:13-15
3. Discuss some of the challenges of watchfulness in this generation? Matt. 24:10-13; 2 Tim. 3:1-5
4. How will the Master reward faithful service? Matt. 25:2
5. What punishment awaits those who are not watchful?

**Application:** What are some distractions hindering you from being watchful and how do you intend to address them?

### **Conclusion**

The believer is called to be alert as someone who is constantly on duty; readily awaiting the return of the Master. The servant who is faithful in obeying the command to be watchful will certainly be rewarded while those who are unfaithful will be severely punished. The call to be a faithful watchman is applicable to every believer. We must be faithful watchmen not because we are afraid of being punished but because we are motivated by our love for God and His promise to reward His faithful servants.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 12:40



## **LESSON 35**

**Topic: The Need for Repentance**

**Text: Luke 13: 1-9**

**Aim: To stress the need for repentance**

### **Introduction**

A preacher once made this statement: "the harvest is large; the laborers are few but the church is full." The report from mission agencies is that the number of those who Sign up for missions in the recent years had been on declining rate. There is a need for repentance in the church today. Many attend churches for other reasons, and not So much to have a change of lifestyle. To repent is to turn away completely from a particular way of life to another. This lesson will stress the need for that in today's church.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. A call to repentance, vs 1-5
  - a. Death is common to all humankind
  - b. Only repentance can bring life
2. Extension of Grace in hope for repentance, vs6-9
  - a. Unmet expectations
  - b. A plea for grace

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. In what ways do Christians abuse God's grace today?

2. Why did the Jews think that they were more righteous than the Galileans and the people of Siloam? vs1-5
3. How does associating misfortune with sin affect our attitude to repentance? John 9:2-3
4. Discuss ways in which many believers are not meeting up with God's expectations?
5. How can we take advantage of God's grace to live right?
6. In what ways can the issue of repentance (turning away from doing wrong) feature in our interpersonal relationships?

Application: How has God's grace affected your attitude to sin?

## **Conclusion**

We live in a time when almost everything is rationalized. There are so many in the church whose definition of repentance is faulty; they hide under grace and live in sin. Today's lesson is a clear call for self-examination and repentance; towards God and man (2 Cor. 13: 5). The Lord is full of grace yet He is a judge and expects fruit of repentance from His children.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 3:8

## **LESSON 36**

### **Topic: The Narrow Door**

**Text: Luke 13:22-330**

**Aim: To stress the narrow door as the only means to salvation**

### **Introduction**

In Africa, there is a popular statement that "all roads lead to the market." However, when it comes to starting a relationship with God, there is only one way (the narrow door). For years John Wesley tried to start a relationship with the Lord through religious activities, which we consider the "broad door." However, in late 1735, he met with a group of German Monroviaans, who were calm during a storm in a ship while he was overwhelmed with fear. When the Monroviaans asked him about his relationship with Christ, he discovered that he was just religious. That led to a period of soul searching, and finally to one of the most talked about conversions.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus teaches in towns and villages, v22
2. Jesus responds to a question about salvation, vs23-30
  - a. "Make every effort"- this is not to be confused with working to earn salvation. The effort itself is realized through God's grace (Eph. 2: 8-9). There is a level of discipline and choice that is required for salvation. Those who choose salvation do so by agreeing to walk with God, while those who choose the world are responsible for their choice.
  - b. "Narrow door" refers to Jesus Christ, John 14:6
  - c. Entering through the narrow door entails that only a few will be saved, Mtt. 7:13-14
  - d. Those who choose to enter through the "broad road" will be thrown out
  - e. Salvation is a universal concept; taking people from every part of the world

- f. "Last will be first, and first will be last" - This is applicable to the period of the Gentiles, who are enjoying the privilege of the Jews.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How is the concept of the narrow door understood among believers today?
2. What is the significance of Jesus teaching in towns and villages?
3. What do you think Jesus meant when He said that we should make every effort to enter through the narrow door? Matt. 7:13-14
4. Why will many try and not be able to enter through the narrow door? John 14:6 5. What effort are you making to proclaim Christ globally? Acts 1:8

**Application:** Share your experience about how you entered the narrow door?

### **Conclusion**

The question someone asked Jesus in today's text is an important one. The concept of the narrow door depicts Jesus as the only means to salvation. It is never enough that we serve the Lord. It is also crucial that we pause and assess ourselves if we entered through this narrow door. Salvation is found not in works but in personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 7:13-14

## **LESSON 37**

**Topic: The Cost of Being Christ's Disciple**

**Text: Luke 14: 25-35**

**Aim: To charge believers to count the cost of being Jesus' disciple**

### **Introduction**

Danjuma and Aishatu's joy in their new found faith in Jesus was discouraged by threats of being ostracized by families and friends who Were not Christians. Danjuma considered the love, sense of belonging, and financial support he risked losing from family if he persisted in his faith. He concluded that it would be better to keep the bond of family and abandon the faith, in order for peace to prevail. On the other hand, Aishatu, who was equally fond of her family and committed to peaceful co-existence, accepted the painful loss of love, sense of belonging and financial support as the price she must pay to follow Christ. She thus remained resolute under the same circumstances and continued in her walk of faith.

### **Key Ideas**

1. The cost of being Jesus' disciple, vs25-33

- a. Must "hate" father - hate means to love Jesus more than your father. Same applies to other family members including one's life (Luke 9: 23).
- b. Must carry his cross - this means to identify with Jesus even to the point of death. c.

Must count the cost

d. Must give up everything

2. The impact of a disciple of Christ, vs34-35

- a. Must be salt - preserve and help others to taste Christ through him.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why is it costly to be a disciple of Jesus?
2. How do you reconcile Jesus' statement to hate your father and mother with the fifth Commandment? (Exo. 20:12)
3. Discuss ways one is likely to hate himself in the course of loving Christ, Luke 9:23
4. Why is carrying one's cross a requirement for being a disciple of Christ?
5. In what ways can a disciple preserve the decaying world?

**Application:** How does your desire for Christ outweigh earthly pursuits?

**Conclusion**

Following Jesus Christ always comes with a cost. The cost may be in terms of self-denial, cutting off from friends and family ties or even death. In his famous book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, declared that: "when Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die." It might be a death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow Him or it might be a death like Luther who had to leave the monastery and go out into the world (selfdenial). However, it is the same cost every time. To what extent are you willing to count the cost in following Christ?

**Memory Verse:** Luke 14:26

## **LESSON 38**

**Topic: The Lost Sheep & Coin**

**Text: Luke 15:1-10**

**Aim: To encourage believers to seek the lost**

### **Introduction**

All business people engage in business to make profit. Jesus came into the world and died to redeem the souls of men. By professing our faith in Him, we automatically enroll into the business of soul winning to order to enrich God's Kingdom. This is our call and this is our task.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus preaches to tax collectors and sinners, v1
2. The Pharisees and teachers of the law oppose Him, v2
3. Jesus responds in parables
  - a. Parable of the lost sheep, vs3-7
  - b. Parable of the lost coin, vs8-10

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do business people hate loss?
2. Jesus was surrounded by tax collectors, Pharisees, and Sinners. How can believers today preach to unbelievers and those who oppose Christianity? vs1-2
3. Why is there laxity about soul winning among some believers today?
4. What is the wisdom in leaving ninety-nine and going after one? vs4-7
5. What soul winning strategy can we get from the parable of the lost coin? vs8-10
6. What motivation do we get from vs7 and 10 about winning Souls?

**Application:** How has today's lesson challenged you towards soul winning and what practical steps will you take?

### **Conclusion**

The task of winning the lost is a responsibility of every believer. This is because we are saved in order to bring others to Christ. Therefore, there is a need for us to be deliberate in seeking the lost within and outside our communities. This lesson is a wakeup call to rise to the responsibility of Winning souls while it is day.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 15:7



## **LESSON 39**

**Topic: The Heart of a Father**

**Text: Luke 15:11-31**

**Aim: To highlight the depth of the Father's love towards the lost**

### **Introduction**

Fathers are hardly understood. This is more when their children make decisions that hurt their feelings and comfort. As fathers, they mostly are not certain about the right decisions to make. In today's parable, we will see how God plays the role of an earthly father over two young people; one choosing to leave the company of the father to do what he likes and the other feeling cheated because his father celebrated the younger one. This lesson will tell us more.

### **Key Ideas:**

- I. A Father and his two sons, v11
2. The younger son demands a share of his inheritance, vs12-19
  - a. Traveled to a far country
  - b. Squandered in wild living and became needy
  - c. Came back to his senses
  - d. Returned to his father and repented
3. The father's forgiveness, vs20b-24
  - a. Had compassion on his son
  - b. Ran and embraced his son
  - c. Honored his son
  - d. Threw a party for his son
4. The older son reacted, vs25-32
  - a. Angry at his father's action
  - b. Misunderstood his father's love

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What caused the younger son to leave home and was he ready?
2. Was it wise for the father to grant his younger son's request?
3. Describe the unique nature of the father's love and forgiveness
4. What lessons can we learn from the father about handling wayward children?
5. How do some believers display the same attitude of the older son?

**Application:** What contribution have your parents made in your spiritual journey?

**Conclusion**

There is no sin or offence that is big enough to prevent God's children from experiencing His love. God's children should be astonished at the magnitude and depth of their Father's loving heart. Though we are incomplete, He loves us completely, spite of our imperfection, He loves perfectly. When we feel nearly lost or far lost and without compass, His love encompasses us completely, He loves every one of His children, the wise, the foolish, the wayward and the obedient equally.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 15:32

**Topic: The Shrewd Manager****Text: Luke 16: 1-15****Aim: To emphasize the need for believers to be prudent in managing God's resources****Introduction**

To be shrewd means to have or show sharp powers of judgment. The manager in our passage was accused of mismanaging his master's wealth and was at the verge of losing his job. Seeing what would befall him, he demonstrated a sharp sense of intelligence in dealing with his master's debtors. Originally, the manager is thought to have overcharged the debtors and the extra charges were to be for him. This practice was a common way of circumventing the Mosaic Law that prohibited taking interest from fellow Jews (Exo. 22: 25-27; Lev. 25:36; Deut. 23: 19-20). He therefore, reduced the debts of the debtors and returned the initial amount to the boss. This pleased his master because he did not lose his money. The manager on the other hand gained favor with the debtors. He was commended for his sharp sense of judgment.

**Key Ideas:**

1. The rich man and his manager, vs 1-8
  - a. Manager accused of wasting his master's resources
  - b. Manager requested to give account
  - c. Manager threatened to be sacked
  - d. Manager's strategy:
    - Goes back to his master's customers with a proposal
    - Forfeits his personal interest/profit
2. Jesus' teaching on wealth management, vs 9-13
  - a. Use available resources prudently
  - b. Have a human face in business - be humane
  - c. Be trustworthy
  - d. Be a good steward
  - e. Make money your servant not your master

3. The reaction of the Pharisees, v14 - they sneered at Jesus
4. Jesus rebuked the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, v15

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What comes to your mind when you hear about the shrewd manager?
2. How did the shrewd manager come out of his crisis'? Luke 16:3-7
3. What can believers learn from the statement in Luke 16:8b
4. How can one use worldly wealth to gain friends and what is the implication of that? Luke 16:9
5. What is the benefit of being trustworthy and a faithful steward? Luke 16:10-12
6. What is the implication of having money as your master not your servant?

**Application:** How has this lesson helped you in handling money biblically?

### **Conclusion**

Today's lesson addresses the issue of wealth management from multiple perspectives. The main point Jesus had in mind was to teach the biblical principle of stewardship in a way that makes it easy to understand. Those who are trustworthy with little are also trustworthy with much. The same applies to those who are honest with little. The lesson also revealed that relationships are more important than money; as a result, money should serve us rather than allowing it to be our master. Taking a cue from the way the people of the world look out for themselves, we must value human relationships above money and trust God for the wisdom to use it for the benefit of others.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 16:13

## **LESSON 41**

**Topic:** God's Assessment of the Rich Man and Lazarus

**Text:** Luke 16:19-31

**Aim: To stress the importance of having a personal relationship with God**

## **Introduction**

Our relationship with God gives us the privilege of spending eternity with Him. It begins at the point where one accepts Jesus as Savior. This decision is key! Everything we do henceforth, for God and towards others is built on this foundation. Our lives on this side of eternity give us the opportunity to prepare to live forever with God. The lesson before us x-rays the life times of Lazarus and the rich man while on earth.

## **Key Ideas:**

1. A description of the rich man, v19

a. Dressed in purple and fine linen

b. Lived in luxury every day

2. A description of the beggar, vs20-21

a. Laid at the rich man's gate

b. Covered with sores C. Dogs licked his sores

d. Longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table

3. Both died, vs22-24

a. The beggar (Lazarus) was taken Abraham's side

b. The rich man was taken to hell (hades)

- He pleaded for his life

- He pleaded for his brothers

4. Abraham's response, vs25-51

d. Pointed the rich man to his life on earth

b. There is a chasm that cannot be adjusted - once you cross over, there is no second chance

c. There is no provision for any preacher from the dead to preach to the living on earth. God has His Word and preachers to do that.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What in your opinion makes it difficult for people to be good or kind to others?
2. How is it important to know that there is no turning back once a person crosses to heaven or hell? Heb. 9:27
3. How do you respond to the allusion of people dying and returning in the context of this lesson? Luke 16: 27-31
4. What was it that determined the destinies of Lazarus and the rich man? John 5: 24
5. What should be our attitude towards the preaching of God's Word? Luke 16:31

**Application:** What do you learn from the life and eternal destiny of the beggar and the rich man that affects your relationship with God?

**Conclusion**

It is not the degree of one's benevolence, physical lack or riches that determines his eternal destiny, but the decision and relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Jesus said: "blessed are the poor in spirit (those who realize their need of God) for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5: 3). The decision of where to spend eternity begins with a realization of one's need of God. As we reflect on this study, the question we must all answer is, "have I realized my need of God? And do I have a relationship with Him?"

**Memory Verse:** 1 John 5:12

**LESSON 42**

**Topic:** The Day of the Lord's Return

**Text:** Luke 17:20-37

**Aim:** To challenge believers to live in preparation for the return of the Lord

**Introduction**

Meg and Samarth are two best friends, they live in the same room of the college dormitory. Samarth always goes out for party outside the campus, while Meg stays in to study and participates in all the activities of the school. One day Sam came back in the midnight and found out that Meg and other students had already written their anticipated final exams due to the sudden change in the timetable. This lesson intends to challenge believers to always prepare for the day of the Lord.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Question about the coming of the Kingdom of God, vs20-24

a. The Pharisees' question about when the Kingdom of God will come b.

Jesus' response

- The Kingdom of God (Jesus Christ) is within them
- The disciples warned not to run after those who claim to be the Christ
- Jesus Christ will be seen in His glory by everyone

2. The things that precede the day of the Lord, v25

- 'Jesus' suffering and rejection (death and the resurrection)

3. The comparison of the day of the Lord, vs26-32

a. Just as the day of Noah, people were eating and drinking marrying and giving in marriage

b. Just as the day of Lot, people were living in sin (Gen. 19:1-29)

4. Do not be consumed by the desires of this life at the expense of the one to come, v33

5. The actions of that day, vs34-37

a. Two people in bed - one taken one left

b. Two women grinding - one taken one left

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Looking back over the various transition periods of your life, which is the most important that you are always longing for?

2. What is the understanding of the people concerning the Kingdom of God? vs20-24

3. How do you perceive the events preceding the day of the Lord? v25
4. What was so bad about the way people were living compared to our time? Genesis 6: 11-13, 19: 1-29; 2 Peter 2: 4-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3
5. How would you compare the way people respond to God's Word in the days of Noah, Lot, and now?

**Application:** How are you preparing for the coming of the Lord and how can you help others to do same?

### **Conclusion**

In today's lesson, the Pharisees wanted to know when the Kingdom of God was going to come. They were blinded because of their unbelief the Kingdom was there with them but they did not notice it. Jesus' first coming was to establish a spiritual kingdom through His suffering, death, and resurrection. These who believe in Him are waiting for His return in glory to gather them to Himself.

**Memory Verses:** 1 Thessalonians 5:2

## **LESSON 43**

**Topic:** The Persistent Widow

**Text:** Luke 18: 1-8

**Aim:** To inspire believers to be persistent in life

### **Introduction**



Widowhood is not a pleasant experience. A widow usually goes through challenges like: grief, loneliness, fear of the unknown, countless pressures from the family members and others who may want to take advantage of her. When a widow expresses her emotions openly, some may offer help, while others may exploit her. This lesson presents the situation of a widow who persisted in requesting for justice from an ungodly Judge.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus' instruction to always pray and not give up, v1 2.

The characteristics of an unjust judge, vs2

a. He did not fear God

b. He did not care about people

3. A persistent widow, v3

☐ A widow seeking for justice 4 The confession of the unjust judge, vs4-5

a. Testified about his ungodly disposition

b. Grants justice to the widow

5. Jesus' response, vs6-8

☐ The righteous Judge will listen to the cry of His children

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. As a child, how did you get what you wanted from your parents?

2. The Romans were open to collecting bribes, in the case of this widow, what approach did she use to have her need met?

3. What do you do when answers to your prayers seem to delay?

4. How are you challenged by the confession of the unjust Judge?

5. What lesson can we learn from Jesus' response in vs6-8?

**Application:** How will today's lesson help you to be more persistent in life?

## **Conclusion**

People are being denied justice due to so many factors. The judge in our lesson refused to give the widow attention, hence Judgement. However, because she persisted, she was granted her desire. Jesus expects every believer to be persistent, not only in prayer but in all aspects of our walk and work with Him.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 18:7

## **LESSON 44**

**Topic:** Accepting the Kingdom of God Like a Child

**Text:** Luke 18:15-17

**Aim:** To challenge believers to receive God's Word by faith

## **Introduction**

A child has the tendency of believing anything taught whether he understands it or not. This is unlike an adult whose acceptance is always determined by different things - circumstances, cultures, religion, habits, thoughts, etc. In spiritual matters however, acceptance must not always be determined by human reasoning. Therefore, in this lesson, we will look at how Jesus linked the acceptance of God's Word with that of a child.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Children are brought to Jesus, v1 5a
  - ☐ Parents brought their children to Jesus to be blessed
2. Disciples tried to hinder the children from coming to Jesus, v15b
3. Jesus' response: v16
  - a. He calls the children to Himself
  - b. He encourages the parents to bring their children to Him
  - c. He cautions His disciples against hindering the children from coming to Him
4. Jesus' teaching on receiving the Kingdom of God, v17
  - a. It is to be received like a child - with trust, faith, frankness, complete loyalty
  - b. Those who refuse to receive the Kingdom "like a child" will not enter

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What was it that you accepted without questioning but find difficult to do so now
2. How would Jesus' disciples' action be understood in today's society?
3. How is Jesus' response a challenge to our attitude to receiving others into the Kingdom of God?
4. How can God's Word (Kingdom of God) be received like a child"?
5. What are the challenges in receiving the Kingdom of God (God's Word) as a child?

**Application:** In which areas of your life should you be a "child" and why?

### **Conclusion**

Children were brought to Jesus to be touched and blessed. They were denied by His disciples but, Jesus intervened and invited the children to Himself. He related the indwelling of the Kingdom of God (God's Word), only for those who humble themselves and become like children in character. Jesus will only accept those who believe and are humble to enter the Kingdom of God. **Memory Verses:** Mark 10:15

## **LESSON 45**

**Topic:** Zacchaeus Occupied Through Showing the Fruit of Repentance

**Text:** Luke 19: 1-10

**Aim:** To challenge believers to show the fruit of repentance

### **Introduction**

Repentance is an act of deliberately turning from sin to God. It is a change that begins from the heart and manifests itself outwardly through a person's action. Like fruits on a tree, our actions are seen to represent who we truly are. Zacchaeus turned around when he encountered Jesus. This lesson intends to challenge us to occupy by manifesting the fruit of repentance.

**Key Ideas:**

### 1. The city of Jericho, v1

a. Jericho was the first city attacked under Joshua after Crossing the Jordan river (Joshua 6)

b. A curse was pronounced after the destruction of Jericho (Joshua 6:26)

C. The historical site is known today as "Tell es-Sultan" (Hill of the Sultan) located in the modern-day West Bank

### 2. The man, Zacchaeus, vs2-4

a. A wealthy tax collector

b. He wanted to see Jesus

- He couldn't because he was short
- He ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree (the tallest tree known in Palestine)

### 3. Zacchaeus' repentance, vs8-10

a. Jesus presents Himself to Zacchaeus

b. Zacchaeus' confession and restitution

C. Jesus declares Zacchaeus' salvation

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the name of the tallest tree in your locality?
2. Jericho is known to have been cursed (Jos. 6:26) you think Jesus passed through it?
3. What was the social status of Zacchaeus and why would he have sought to see Jesus?
4. What led Zacchaeus to give half of his possession and pay back four times anybody he had cheated?
5. Why did Jesus dine with Zacchaeus and why did that bother others?

**Application:** What do you currently have in your possession that was acquired through wrong means? What plans do you have to make restitution?

### **Conclusion**

The world indeed, is in eager expectation of the manifestation of the sons of God. Showing the fruit of repentance as demonstrated in our lesson today by Zacchaeus is a demonstration of our repentance and willingness to walk with God. Our openness to admit wrong and turn away from it will serve as a motivation for many to make things right with God, and God Himself will be happy with us.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 19:8

## **LESSON 46**

**Topic:** Occupy till I Come

**Text:** Luke 19:11-13 (KJV)

**Aim:** To task believers to get involved in the Lord's business till He comes

### **Introduction**

The word occupy connotes the idea of doing business. It refers to an organization, enterprise or entity engaged in commercial, industrial or professional activity. It also refers to the efforts and activities undertaken by individuals to produce, sell goods and services for profit and rewards. In this lesson we will look at the Master who wants His servants to "occupy" till He comes.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. The assumptions of the people, v11
  - a. The people assumed that Jesus would establish His earthly rule as soon as He entered Jerusalem
  - b. The people also assumed that Jesus' rule would be the continuation of the throne of David
2. A man of noble birth, v12
  - Man of noble birth refers to Jesus Christ

3. He charged them to 'occupy', v13b (KJV)

a. Trade with the pounds (Gift given to you)

b. All His servants are responsible to do business with what the Lord has given them

c. The fact that they received the same sum means that the difference is the results

d. The difference in results comes through their diligence, commitment, and motivation

4.'...till I come,' v13c

a. This Signifies the certainty of Christ's Second Coming

b. This also signifies continuous series of labor and service to the coming of Christ

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What is the purpose of giving someone a business capital?

2. What is Jesus trying to teach through this parable?

3. How does the charge to Occupy relate to you as a child of God?

4. How is the charge, “till I come” a motivation for you to continue relentlessly in God's business?

5. What lesson can you learn from the fact that the servants were given equal number of pounds?

**Application:** How many pounds (talents, spiritual gifts) have you been given and how are you investing them in Kingdom business?

### **Conclusion**

God has given us the opportunity to partner with Him in the kingdom business. He has endowed us with talents and spiritual gifts to invest. There is need for every believer to be responsible for making the business grow. This can happen through keeping up with the type of market (area of calling) that can generate more income (souls for Christ). Failure to do that will result in losses. Remember our Master Jesus who owns the business will reward you according to what you have done.

**Memory Verse:** Ephesians 4:7

## **LESSON 47**

**Topic:** The Challenges of occupying till He Comes

**Text:** Luke 19: 14-15

**Aim:** To highlights the challenges that affect our businesses and to profer solution

### **Introduction**

Growing businesses face a range of challenges. As business grows, different problems may emerge that can cause the downfall of the business, such as; facilities, personnel, products, delivery etc. Therefore, there is need to proffer solutions to the problem. You need to know that the approach you used a year ago may not be the best approach today. As the business (ministry) is growing so also the things we listed above. In spite of that you always need strategies to handle the challenges. This lesson highlights the particular risks that commonly affect growing businesses and what you can do about it.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. The conspiracy in business. v14
  - a. Rejection of the business plan
  - b. The delegation to reject the business owner (king)
2. Leadership: The coronation and home return, v15a
3. Accountability, v15b
  - ☐ The servants are summoned to give account



**Discussion Questions:**

1. What are the challenges of business that are making you afraid to start one?
2. How can you identify and manage the people with whom to start your business? Luke 19:12
3. Why do you think the business owner's plan was rejected? Vs 14 cf. Revelation 19:16
4. What did the business Owner do to get accountability? 15b cf. 2 Corinthians 5:10
5. How can you help to improve the return on God's invest in your life?

**Application:** What are the common challenges affecting you in your business for the Kingdom and what steps would you take to solve them?

**Conclusion**

Business cannot grow without challenges. If you are faced with any problem, try to identify where the problem is emanating from. In business, problems can come from the personnel, product, delivery etc. Therefore, you need to remain resolute in order to provide solutions. God has provided us with a platform for ministry and we need to know that there is accountability and reward for those who scale through the challenges encountered in discharging their duties. **Memory Verse:** 1 Corinthians 15:58

## **LESSON 48**

**Topic: The Consequence of Not Occupying till He comes**

**Text: Luke 19:20-24, 27**

**Aim: To warn believers about the consequences of not utilizing God's resources given to them**

### **Introduction**

From the story of the ten servants it is very clear why the Master gave them the money. They were instructed to invest the money. Interestingly, they were given equal shares. However, two servants were commended for investing and making profit. The third servant only brought back what he was given. He did not invest and did not make any profit. This lesson is aimed at warning believers of the consequence of not utilizing God's resources.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. The servant returned the money to the master without investing it, v20
2. The servant presented excuses for his negligence, V21
  - a. He was afraid to invest the master's money
  - b. He accused the master of being hard
    - Taking what isn't his own
    - Harvesting where he did not plant
3. The master's response, vs22-24
  - Why didn't you deposit my money in the bank for interest at least?

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What role does investment play in a business?
2. How would you describe the action of the servant in the light of the master's instruction (Luke 19: 13)? Luke 19: 20-21
3. In what ways did the non-challan attitude of the servant reflect some believer's attitude towards Kingdom business?
4. What was the master's expectation and how was it not met? vs22-23
5. What was the consequence of not Investing his master's money? vs24, 27

**Application:** God has generously given every Christian at least one spiritual gift. How faithful are you investing it for eternal value?

**Conclusion**

Any business investor goes with profit in mind. The story in Luke 19:11-24 agrees with the fact that God is an investor and a business Father. This means that since the day you received Christ, you entered into God's investment crew. Therefore, God expects your life, relationships and services to be profitable.

**Memory Verse:** John 15:8

## **LESSON 49**

**Topic: The Benefit of Occupying till He comes**

**Text: Luke 19: 16-19,24-26**

**Aim: To encourage faithful service for commensurate reward among believers**

### **Introduction**

Numerous stories abound in Nigerian dailies today with regards to security service. One that catches attention is about a faithful police officer who returned millions of Naira to a victim of an armed robbery attack in Plateau State. Though this officer's reward was not announced in the radio but a lot of people in Nigeria showered blessings on him. This lesson seeks to encourage faithfulness among believers.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. The reward, vs 16-19,24

a. Servant number one

- Received one pound but gained ten
- Rewarded with ten cities to take charge

b. Servant number two

- Received one pound gained five
- Rewarded with ten cities

- c. The king ordered that the money should be taken from the unfaithful servant and given to  
Servant number one
- 2. Reaction of bystanders, v25-"he already has ten"
- 3. The king's response, v26
  - a. Those who use well what they are given, even more will be given to them
  - b. Those who do nothing, even the little they have will be taken away

### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. What benefit have you ever enjoyed for good work in life?
- 2. In the parable, what does the Master find out when he returned and what does he do about it?
- 3. What justified the action of the king in verse 24?
- 4. What is the implication of this reward system: the one who has ten is given more and the one who has one, even that is taken away?
- 5. How can the attitude of the bystanders be compared to our contemporary society? vs25-26
- 6. What has God invested in you and how are you using it for His Kingdom? v26

**Application:** How are you motivated by this lesson to do more in your service for God?

### **Conclusion**

God's mathematical standard of rewarding His hardworking and faithful servants as highlighted in today's lesson, is interestingly inspirational. The expectation is that God's servants will maximally utilize His investment in their lives. There is no room to accommodate the flimsy excuses of the lazy and non-challan. Those who labor tirelessly using their various endowments and talents will receive a handsome and huge reward, while those who pretend to have nothing to offer will be openly disgraced.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 19:26

## **LESSON 50**

**Topic: Jesus Restores Dignity to the Place Worship**

**Text: Luke 19;45-48**

**Aim: To reinforce the central purpose of the temple being a place of Worship**

### **Introduction**

The dignity and respect of the temple was called to question when it was overtaken by merchandize. Something urgent needed to be done to restore this because the temple symbolized the spiritual and national life of Israel. Such an institution was not to be commercialized. Jesus took the lead in reigniting the central purpose of the temple as a place for the business of the Kingdom. This is what this lesson is focused on.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus clears the Temple, v45
  - He drove out people selling animals for sacrifices
2. Jesus affirms what the Scriptures says, v46 cf. Isa. 56:7; Jer. 7:11
  - The temple a house of prayer not a den of robbers
3. Jesus teaches daily in the temple, v47
  - a. The temple was intended to be a place of learning
  - b. The temple was intended to be a place of worship and fellowship

C. The temple was intended to be a symbol of spiritual and national unity 4.

The opposition did not succeed in killing the Lord Jesus, v48

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How are people abusing the temple of God today?
2. What would Jesus frown at in your church today and why? vs45-46
3. How will the daily teaching of God's word be improved in your church?
4. What makes it difficult for the chief priests, teachers of the law and leaders to kill Jesus? v48
5. How can the church serve as the rallying point of unity amongst believers today?

**Application:** In what ways do we make the church a place of merchandize today?

### **Conclusion**

Jesus cleared the temple because the religious leaders were using it for merchandise. In what way(s) is your church different? The church needs the sound teaching of the word more than ever before. Hence pastors should be devoted to praying for the people rather than preying on them.

**Memory Verse:** Luke 19:46

## **LESSON 51**

**Topic: Occupy in Giving till He Comes**

**Text: Luke 21:1-4**

**Aim: To encourage believers in the act of giving**

### **Introduction**

At offering time during Sunday service in a children church, the pastor watched with amusement one of the children challenging his friend, "put it all I heard your father say you should put it all." After enquiring, the pastor found out that the boy was trying to keep a part of the money his father gave him for offering. The question is how do you give today? This lesson seeks to encourage believers in the act of giving.

### **Key Ideas:**

1. Jesus watched the people drop their offering in the temple, vs1-2
  - ☐ A poor widow dropped two coins
2. Jesus commended the poor widow for giving more than others, vs3-4
  - a. She gave all she had
  - b. Others gave out of their wealth

### **Discussion Questions:**

- I. Why is it easy to receive than to give?



2. How do you understand the phrase, "widow's mite," in respect to giving? Luke 21:23.
3. What do you think motivated the poor widow to give as she did? Luke 21:3-4 cf. 2 Cor. 8: 1-5
- 4 What lessons can we learn from the attitude of the widow and the rich in terms of giving?
5. How will your offering differ if Jesus were to physically supervise it?