

One Year through the New Testament

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The Gospel of Luke, con't

April 1: Luke 9:28-50

- 1) At the Mount of Transfiguration Elijah and Moses were present. Why?
- 2) What did Peter want to do? Why?
- 3) What was the purpose of the Transfiguration?
- 4) The next day a child had an evil spirit in him. How do we know that it wasn't epilepsy?
- 5) Why weren't the disciples able to drive the demon out?
- 6) Why were the disciples afraid to ask what they didn't understand?
- 7) Why is a child a good example of faith?
- 8) How does one explain the man who was not one of them but was driving out demons?

Important questions and thoughts:

Lord, you provide children as your blessing to families. My heart leaps for joy today that you have provided that blessing to families by way of adoption. Thank you for giving families the strength and comfort they needed as they waited and prayed for a child. Now, Lord, be with those families and the children that they may grow together in faith as members of your family. Guide in your ways until we all join you in our eternal home. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

April 2: Luke 9:51 – 10:12

- 1) Why were the Samaritans angry with Jesus because he was headed to Jerusalem?
- 2) What did the disciples want to do?
- 3) What does Jesus say about the intensity with which we are to follow him?
- 4) What are things that get in our way?
- 5) Is it still true that the number of workers is still too few?
- 6) When Jesus sent the disciples out he wanted them to stay in the homes that welcomed him. Why didn't he want them moving about?
- 7) When do we wipe the dust off the feet?

Important questions and thoughts:

O God of peace, I turn aside from an unquiet world, seeking rest for my spirit and light for my thoughts. I bring my work to be sanctified, my wounds to be healed, my sins to be forgiven, my hopes to be renewed. In you through your Son there is perfect harmony. Draw me to yourself, and silence the discords of my wasteful life. Your greatness is beyond my highest praise. Take me out of the loneliness of self, and fill me with the fullness of your peace. Amen.

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April 3: Luke 10: 13 – 37

- 1) How do the opening words of this reading teach there are degrees in hell?
- 2) From what Jesus says why should we not be offended when people reject what we have to say when we witness to them?
- 3) When the disciples returned to Jesus, what was the real heart and core of their work?
- 4) What does he mean in 10:21?
- 5) What question caused the parable of the Good Samaritan to be spoken?
- 6) So...who is your neighbor?

Important questions and thoughts:

Heavenly Father, I thank you for gift of grandparents. In their love I see a picture of your love. Thank you for their wisdom which comes with the passing of years. Thank you for the time they generously give to children and grandchildren. Help us not to be in such a hurry that we cannot spend time with them. Teach us to number our days so that we use the days and hours you give us to show our grandparents how much we love and appreciate them before it is too late. Forgive us our failures to do this through your Son, Jesus, our Savior, and keep every generation in the one true faith so that we can look forward to an eternal reunion in heaven. Amen.

April 4: Luke 10:38 – 11:13

- 1) Are you a Martha or are you a Mary?
- 2) Say the Lord's Prayer slowly and think through all the petitions before going on to the next petition.
- 3) What are the different items the Lord is teaches us about prayer?
 - a. Verses 7,8
 - b. Verses 9,10
 - c. Verses 11-13

Important questions and thoughts:

O King most glorious, Savior most humble, hosanna to the Son of David, hosanna in the highest! Praise be to your name! Just as you rode into Jerusalem to fulfill God's promise for our salvation, so come into our lives to keep us on the way of salvation. You didn't waver on your way to the cross; forgive us when we waver on our way. Because your will is one with the Father's, so make our will one with yours. Glory be to God! Amen.

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April 5: Luke 11: 14-36

- 1) What was the popular thought as to why Jesus was driving out demons?
- 2) How did Jesus refute the argument?
- 3) How is 11:23 an ominous statement to all?
- 4) In 11:24-26 Jesus speaks to people who are going to have their own personal reformations. What is the warning?
- 5) How did Jesus use the Queen of Sheba as an example?
- 6) How do we apply 11:35, 36?

Important questions and thoughts:

O King most glorious, Savior most humble, hosanna to the Son of David, hosanna in the highest! Praise be to your name! Just as you rode into Jerusalem to fulfill God's promise for our salvation, so come into our lives to keep us on the way of salvation. You didn't waver on your way to the cross; forgive us when we waver on our way. Because your will is one with the Father's, so make our will one with yours. Glory be to God! Amen.

April 6: Luke 11:37 – 12:7

- 1) These words were obviously tough on the Pharisees and leaders of the people. He pronounced woe on the Pharisees. Why did they miss the fundamental things?
- 2) What were the burdens that they were loading on people?
- 3) How were the Pharisees of Jesus' day guilty of the same thing their fathers were guilty of centuries before?
- 4) What is the knowledge that the Pharisees didn't have?
- 5) Who is the one who can kill the body and has power to throw you into hell – God or the Devil?

Important questions and thoughts:

Jesus, Son of David, save us now! Blessed are you, for you come to us in the name of the Lord. Across the ages and around the world we go in spirit to join that happy throng that sang your praises as you rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Please come to us, King of Zion, through the means of grace, and prepare us to follow you through this crucial Holy Week. Amen.

One Year through the New Testament

April 7: Luke 12: 8-34

- 1) What is the promise that is comforting in verses 8-10?
- 2) What is ominous?
- 3) Have you had an experience where the Holy Spirit was obviously giving you the words to say in a witnessing situation?
- 4) What was really wrong with the decision that the man made to build bigger barns?
- 5) Why do we worry?
- 6) Is there a difference between care and concern? If so, what?
- 7) What does he mean when he says where your heart is that will also be where your treasure is?

Important questions and thoughts:

Dear Savior, we humbly confess our sins to you. As we see you approaching your passion on the way of sorrows, revive in us a spirit of repentance and faith. Renew our assurance that your suffering and death have covered the multitude of our sins, and that, on account of your work, God has made us his children through faith in you. We ask this in your name. Amen.

April 8: Luke 12: 35-59

- 1) What do we need to be ready for?
- 2) When he says that he will come when he is not expected, what does that mean to you?
- 3) How are verses 42-48 an exhortation to good stewardship?
- 4) What is the baptism that Jesus is to undergo?
- 5) How does Jesus divide?
- 6) What signs should we be observing?

Important questions and thoughts:

Dear Savior, who came not to be served but to serve, you washed your disciples' feet as a parting token of your attitude of willing humiliation. Before you performed the ultimate act of self-giving by offering your life as a ransom for the world, you also gave us a lasting testament of your loving sacrifice in Holy Communion. Teach me to treasure this blessed sacrament and your holy example. Move me to serve others as you served. Amen.

One Year through the New Testament

April 9: Luke 13: 1-12

- 1) Chapter 13 addresses a problem that we have in judging someone by the type of disaster that might have come upon them. What is Jesus' advice on to how to handle that?
- 2) What does the parable of the fig tree teach us?
- 3) Why was the argument about doing miracles on the Sabbath considered to be work so ridiculous?
- 4) What does Jesus teach about God's kingdom when he compares it to mustard seed and yeast?

Important questions and thoughts:

Holy Jesus, you bore the crushing weight of my sins as you hung from your cross, and even suffered the terrors of hell for me. By your bruised body, your precious blood, and your bitter agony, have mercy on me, a sinner. I praise you, bless you, and adore you, because by your holy cross you redeemed the world. Amen.

April 10: Luke 13:22 – 14:6

- 1) Why would someone ask the question, "Are only a few going to be saved?"
- 2) What is the narrow door?
- 3) Someone once said we ought to be ready to crawl across miles of shards of glass to tell others about salvation. Jesus makes it quite clear there is a reason. What is it?
- 4) What doctrine is particularly stated in verses 34 and 35?
- 5) Why did the leaders of the people have difficulty answering the question whether it was lawful to heal on the Sabbath Day?

Important questions and thoughts:

Holy Jesus, you bore the crushing weight of my sins as you hung from your cross, and even suffered the terrors of hell for me. By your bruised body, your precious blood, and your bitter agony, have mercy on me, a sinner. I praise you, bless you, and adore you, because by your holy cross you redeemed the world. Amen.

One Year through the New Testament

April 11: Luke 14: 7-35

- 1) How was humility not being observed?
- 2) Why is humility such a precious virtue for the children of God?
- 3) What are similar excuses that we offer to the Lord for not partaking fully in the blessings of salvation?
- 4) What does this parable teach about the people whom God wants as part of his kingdom?
- 5) How does one hate one's own life?
- 6) What are the costs that are involved in following Jesus?

Important questions and thoughts:

Too often I put my own concerns and priorities above your will and work, O Lord. Rid me of my selfishness and fill me with the zeal to keep you first in my life. You died and rose again and are the ever-living Lord. Bless me with the zeal to share you with all that I can. Amen

April 12: Luke 15: 1-32

- 1) What is the common theme of the all three parables in this chapter?
- 2) Why are sheep so good for comparing to sinful mankind?
- 3) Why is the shepherd such a good example of God finding sinful mankind?
- 4) In the parable of the Lost Coin, what is the emphasis?
- 5) What is a better title for the last parable: "The Prodigal Son" or "The Waiting Father"?
- 6) What are ways the father shows he wants the son back not as a servant but as a son?

Important questions and thoughts:

Almighty and everlasting God, through the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you have overcome death and opened to us the gate of eternal life. Although our puny minds cannot comprehend how it is possible, your Word has convinced us that it is true: Christ is risen, he is risen indeed! We beg you, therefore, to sow in our hearts the joy of sins forgiven, so that we may bring forth in our lives the fruit of the faith we proclaim with our lips. Amen

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April 13: Luke 16: 1-18

- 1) We would expect Jesus to say something to rebuke such an attitude from the servant instead of commending him for his shrewdness. What is the lesson Jesus is teaching?
- 2) What is the warning Jesus utters when it comes to worldly possessions?
- 3) Why can't we serve God and money?
- 4) What does verse 17 assure us of?
- 5) When is divorce not acceptable in Jesus' eyes?

Important questions and thoughts:

Living Lord and risen Savior, accept my alleluias and increase my joy that comes from knowing that you have risen from the dead. Comfort me with the assurance that my sins are forgiven and eternal life in heaven is sure. Let the joy of the Easter message lead me to go and tell the good news of your resurrection to the people who don't know the true meaning of Easter. Let the light of my faith in you shine brightly as I face each day and eventually face the day of my death on earth. I ask this in your name. Amen.

April 14: Luke 16:19 – 17:10

- 1) What are the Biblical truths that can be found in this story about the Rich man and poor Lazarus
 - a. Verses 22, 23
 - b. Verse 26
 - c. Verse 29
 - d. Verse 31
- 2) Why is God so offended at the offending of a little one?
- 3) What is the greatest offense we can do to a little one?
- 4) Why is the Lord looking at us to say, "We have only done our duty?"

Important questions and thoughts:

Almighty and everlasting God, through the glorious resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you have overcome death and opened to us the gate of eternal life. Although our puny minds cannot comprehend how it is possible, your Word has convinced us that it is true: Christ is risen, he is risen indeed! We beg you, therefore, to sow in our hearts the joy of sins forgiven, so that we may bring forth in our lives the fruit of the faith we proclaim with our lips. Amen.

One Year through the New Testament

April 15: Luke 17: 11-37

- 1) Why was the one grateful and the others not?
- 2) How is an ungrateful heart turned into a grateful one?
- 3) What does it mean that God's kingdom is in your heart?
- 4) What will the events be like when Jesus returns again?
- 5) What does Jesus mean in verses 30-34?

Important questions and thoughts:

Lord Jesus, you are the great healer of body and soul. As you bid us pray for the spiritual health of our fellow believers, so you call on us to petition your grace for their physical health as well. Comfort all the sick with the promise that in everything you work for the good of those who love you. If it is your will, restore to health those who are burdened by sickness of body or mind. Give wisdom and love to doctors and nurses, and let them be your instruments to bring healing. Trusting in you, we pray. Amen.

April 16: Luke 18: 1-17

- 1) What was the point of the parable about the woman and the king?
- 2) What does the statement mean, "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"
- 3) The word 'Pharisee' meant something different from Jesus' time as it does now. What did it mean then and what does it mean now?
- 4) What is special about a child's faith?

Important questions and thoughts:

Lord of the Church, we bow before you in humble thanksgiving for the blessings you have bestowed on our congregation. Bless the work of those servants whom you have called to lead us into a deeper understanding of your Word. Preserve the spirit of unity and peace among us. Stir up our hearts and the hearts of our fellow believers to give eager and generous support to the spreading of your Word. Prosper the work that is being carried out in our missions, at home and abroad. Send laborers into your harvest in the power of your Spirit. Let your kingdom come, and let your will be done among us and among all people; for Jesus' sake. Amen.

One Year through the New Testament

April 17: Luke 18: 18-43

- 1) Why did Jesus say that no one was good except God?
- 2) Was Jesus saying that the man had to give up all that he had to follow Jesus? What was Jesus' point?
- 3) What specifically does "all things are possible" refer to in verse 27?
- 4) When the blind man called out to Jesus, what was he recognizing about Jesus?

Important questions and thoughts:

O Lord of nations, you know the crisis our nation faces. We need your help and guidance. Forgive us for relying only on the might of our military and for our failure to acknowledge you as our only source of strength. Guide our military leaders, dear Lord. Give them wisdom and insight for leading our troops. Allow their planning and preparation to serve the greater good of your church. If it is your will, Lord, allow this crisis with Iraq to pass peacefully. If military action is necessary, mercifully grant a speedy resolution.

April 18: Luke 19: 1-27

- 1) What are the various miracles that occur in the story about Jesus and Zacchaeus?
- 2) In what ways are you like Zacchaeus?
- 3) Jesus said his purpose was to come and save the lost. What do people say about Jesus?
- 4) What are different ways that God wants us to sow?
- 5) What is bad sowing?

Important questions and thoughts:

Heavenly Father, you keep your promises that seedtime and harvest will always continue. We ask that there be enough to feed your creation. Bless the efforts of those who sow and reap, who tend the cattle and work the soil. Let us recognize your gracious blessings. Those who are hungry, Lord, sustain. Move the hearts of those with an abundance to share with those who have not. Relieve hunger and the suffering that accompanies it. In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

One Year through the New Testament

April 19: Luke 19: 28-48

- 1) Why did Jesus ride the colt into Jerusalem?
- 2) How did Jesus show he was God?
- 3) What kind of enthusiasm do you have when you sing praises to the Lord?
- 4) Why does Jesus weep?
- 5) What did Jesus prophesy in these words?
- 6) What does it mean to “hang on” Jesus’ words?

Important questions and thoughts:

Holy Spirit, you are the source of all light to my soul. Thank you for teaching me that God loves me as his child, that I am safe in his almighty care, and that he will bring me to heaven when my service here is over. In Jesus' name I pray.

April 20: Luke 20: 1-26

- 1) What question were the people asking Jesus?
- 2) What was the purpose behind the question?
- 3) In the parable about the vineyard, who was:
 - a. the owner of the vineyard?
 - b. the servants?
 - c. The son?
- 4) What did the parable mean?
- 5) To whom would the vineyard be given?
- 6) What is our responsibility to the government?

Important questions and thoughts:

Thank you, God, for giving me strength to perform my work and grace to live as your child. Keep me in your everlasting love through Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen

One Year through the New Testament

April 21: Luke 20: 27-47

- 1) Who would the Sadducees be compared to in the modern church?
- 2) What does Jesus tell us that heaven is going to be like?
- 3) What was Jesus' point in verse 37?
- 4) Jesus quotes from the Old Testament (Psalm 110). What is he saying about David, the Father and himself?
- 5) Why did Jesus warn of the teachers of the Law?

Important questions and thoughts:

Dear Lord Jesus, you are the Great Physician of body and soul, and during your time on this earth you clearly demonstrated that you care not only about the salvation of our souls, but also for the welfare of our bodies. Hold your healing hand over all who suffer the ravages of disease and infirmities of advancing years. Comfort those whose suffering seems premature because of accidents they experienced early in life. And in their time of trial draw all of them closer to you in faith and fellowship. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

April 22: Luke 21: 1-28

- 1) What was most impressive about the woman who gave all that she had?
- 2) Is the gift of giving only given to those who have the money to give?
- 3) What are the signs that Christ is coming to judge the world?
- 4) What are the words of warning that go with it?
- 5) What are the promises?
- 6) Jesus intertwines both the signs of the fall of Jerusalem and the signs for the end times. They are the same. What things did the Early Christians look for and what do we look for?

Important questions and thoughts:

Lord, bless the honest, useful labor of my body and mind. Thank you for giving me work to do. I ask for your grace to do it well, not merely to please people, but to please you. You love me with everlasting love in Christ Jesus, my Lord.

One Year through the New Testament

April 23: Luke 21: 29 – 22:13

- 1) To what does he compare the fig tree?
- 2) What assurances are found in the statement “my words will not pass away?”
- 3) What should we be watching for and praying for?
- 4) What details are included in the preparations for the Last Supper that were not included in the Matthew and Mark accounts?

Important questions and thoughts:

Almighty God, preserver of body and soul, be with us when we hurt and grow tired, when we ache and seek relief, when we suffer and need support. Lead those who are sick to look to you for help. And, according to your gracious will, help by restoring health. Comfort us, furthermore, by making even our bodily ills work together for our good. Strengthen our faith, renew our spirits, and rekindle our yearning for life eternal with Christ, who has told us to call on you for all things. Amen.

April 24: Luke 22: 14-34

- 1) What does he mean when he says he won't drink this cup again until the kingdom comes?
- 2) Why do people fight over who is going to be the greatest?
- 3) How does Jesus' solve that problem?
- 4) How do we avoid spiritual self-confidence?

Important questions and thoughts:

Savior Jesus Christ, be with me today as another week draws to its close. If I do not work today, let my rest be in you. If I do work, let all my efforts honor you. Hear my prayer, Lord.

One Year through the New Testament

April 25: Luke 22: 35-53

- 1) What point was Jesus making when he had sent the disciples out to preach to the people of Israel in verse 35?
- 2) What would be different the next time and why?
- 3) What lessons can we learn from the prayer of Jesus in Gethsemane?
- 4) How could the disciples sleep?
- 5) Why were the Jews stirred up about Jesus at this point?

Important questions and thoughts:

Lord, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105). What a precious gift you have given to us in Your Word. It is a lamp to show us the way and a light to brighten the path that leads to our home in heaven. Awaken in us by Your Spirit a new desire to hear and learn that Word. Bless the efforts of the congregations in Sunday schools and Bible classes for teens and adults to provide opportunities to hear and learn your word. Move parents to take advantage of these agencies of the church as they seek to bring up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord. Let the light of Your word shine ever more brightly in our homes, in our churches, and in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

April 26: Luke 22:54 – 23:12

- 1) When have you denied knowing Jesus just as Peter did?
- 2) Why did Peter weep?
- 3) Some have said that Jesus never made the statement that he was the Son of God. Is that true?
- 4) Why was Jesus such a hot potato?
- 5) If you saw the Passion of the Christ, how closely do you think Jesus suffering was depicted?

Important questions and thoughts:

Savior Jesus Christ, be with me today as another week draws to its close. If I do not work today, let my rest be in you. If I do work, let all my efforts honor you. Hear my prayer, Lord. Amen

One Year through the New Testament

April 27: Luke 23: 13-43

- 1) Does Pilate get too much blame for Jesus' death when he did try to release him?
- 2) If Jesus was innocent, why would Pilate punish Jesus?
- 3) What does it mean to carry the cross for Jesus?
- 4) What was Jesus warning the women of Jerusalem as he speaks in verses 28-31
- 5) So who was responsible for crucifying Jesus?
- 6) When Jesus says, "Today you will be with me in Paradise" what are implications?

Important questions and thoughts:

Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth, I pray for your protection and blessing. I don't deserve it, but I trust that you will answer my prayer because your son and my Savior, Jesus Christ paid for my sins. Amen

April 28: Luke 23:44 – 24:12

- 1) What did the curtain tearing in the temple signify?
- 2) How did people react to Jesus' death?
- 3) Why did the friends of Jesus watch from a distance?
- 4) What was said in the Old Testament about the burial place of Christ?
- 5) Have you ever thought if you had been there on that first Easter morning? What would you have thought to be the most curious aspect of it all?
- 6) Why did they think this was all nonsense?

Important questions and thoughts:

Lord Jesus, I thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Without your Spirit I would not be able to call on you as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for your Holy Word through which the Holy Spirit works. Thank you for water baptism through which the Spirit works. When I desire the Holy Spirit, make me hungry for your word. Help me to recall also my baptism where you placed your name upon me - the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit - and made my body the temple of your Holy Spirit. Help me to remember that I do not earn the gift of the Holy Spirit by my prayers, devotion or tears. Help me to remember - and rejoice - that the gift of the Holy Spirit is entirely a gift of your grace - your undeserved love. Help me to remember that it is not my wrestlings and prayers that cause the Holy Spirit to dwell inside of me. Give me peace in knowing that I have everything I need in you, dear Jesus, and I desire nothing more. Amen.

One Year through the New Testament

April 29: Luke 24: 13-53

- 1) Who were these disciples?
- 2) What did they have straight about Jesus?
- 3) What did they have wrong about Jesus?
- 4) Why did they have all those things wrong about Jesus?
- 5) Can you imagine what it must have been like to have Jesus unravel the Scripture. How do you think he did the seven mile Bible class?
- 6) Why did they suffer from heartburn?
- 7) Why are there so many resurrection appearances recorded?
- 8) What has to be unlocked before one understands? What is the key?

Important questions and thoughts:

Holy Father, thank you for sending Jesus to die for my sins, so that each day I hear the Savior say, "My child, your sins are forgiven." With this good news I can live at peace with God through my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Gospel of John

April 30: John 1: 1-28

- 1) Who is the 'Word?'
- 2) Why is he called the 'Word?'
- 3) What does the world not understand about Jesus?
- 4) What is so great about being a child of God?
- 5) What John is referred to in verse fifteen?
- 6) Why the humility from John the Baptist?

Important questions and thoughts:

Almighty God, lead me, your little lamb, this day and all through this week. Hear me for the sake of him who gave his life for the sheep-- Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Amen.