

Our goal in studying the Bible is two-fold. One part of the goal as we read is to engage with our **mind**, to grow in our knowledge of who God is as he has revealed himself in his word. The other part of our goal is to engage with our **heart**, by responding to God as we read with our love, praise, gratitude, confession, needs, questions, and desires.

Engaging with our mind *and* heart as we seek the help of the Holy Spirit helps us grow in an intimate relationship with God through Jesus our Savior as we see him more clearly, know him better and love him more.

## Day 1- Read Luke 10

- How is God revealed in this chapter? What is he like? Who is Jesus shown to be? What is he like?

Pray: Spend time in adoration and thanksgiving.

- What is human nature shown to be like in this chapter? Is this true of you in your life right now?

Pray: Spend time in confession and repentance.

- What does this passage of Scripture show that you need from God? How does your heart need to move to align with what you see in Scripture? Is there something you need to believe? Is there action you need to take?

Pray: Spend time asking God for what you need to live for him.

Meditation: *Luke 10:21 "At that same time Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, and he said, "O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike. Yes, Father, it pleased you to do it this way."(NLT)*

## Day 2- Luke 10:1-20

1. Even as Jesus sent his followers out to spread the good news of the kingdom of God, what did he tell them to do in verse 2?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

*Matthew 9:36-37 "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd, Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'"*

-What motivated Jesus to tell the disciples to pray for more laborers?

Picture and Ponder: "Since we do not naturally care for souls, and do not fully understand hell's horrors, we must borrow from the Lord's compassion expressed in this [in Luke 10:2] statement. The compassionate Lord seeks to rescue people from his wrath and judgment through the prayers of believers"<sup>1</sup>



Reflect on these questions:

- ❖ What do you pray earnestly about?
  
  - ❖ How do our earnest prayers reveal our priorities?
2. Considering the exceeding wickedness of Sodom, (Gen.18:20-19:29) why do you think Jesus said in verses 10-12 it would be better for them in the judgment than for the towns that did not receive Jesus' messengers?

Scholar's Note: "The perfect tense of the verb translated *I have given* [in verse 19] indicates a past action with continuing effects. The Lord has permanently given believers authority, or power, over Satan and the demons, depicted metaphorically here as serpents (cf. Rev 12: 9; 20: 2) and scorpions (Rev. 9: 3, 5, 10)." <sup>2</sup>

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

*Romans 16:20a "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."*

*2 Thessalonians 3:3 "But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one."*

1 John 4:4b "...for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

-How do these verses help you understand the protection, power and authority Jesus gave to his followers in verse 19 and gives to us as believers as well?

-Why is it important we know this?

3. It was not wrong to rejoice in the power and success of their ministry, but how did Jesus realign their perspective in verse 20?

-What are some possible dangers of focusing on the power they had over the enemy and the successes of their ministry?

-What does focusing on Jesus' grace (your name is written in heaven) to you— a sinner— foster in your heart?

Day 3- Luke 10:21-24

4. Verse 21 is the only verse in the New Testament that talks about Jesus rejoicing. It is also translated *to rejoice exceedingly, to be exceedingly glad, to overflow with joy*. What was it that Jesus was overflowing with joy about?

-What characteristics and attributes of God are displayed in verse 21?

Digging Deeper: Read the following passage:

*1 Corinthians 1:21, 26-29 "Since God in his wisdom saw to it that the world would never know him through human wisdom, he has used our foolish preaching to save those who believe.(NLT)  
For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God."*

-What is God's reason for not revealing himself to those who think they are wise and deserving?

-Who in the book of Luke have been the ones to think themselves wise and understanding?

-How does thinking we are worthy enough on our own diminish the work of Jesus on the cross?

Picture and Ponder: "God has hidden spiritual truth so that it is not discoverable by the most elevated human wisdom apart from His self-revelation in Scripture and regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in minds."<sup>3</sup>

5. What in verses 21-22 show that salvation is from first to last a work of God?

Day 4- Luke 10:25-37

Scholar's Note: "This dramatic tale is widely used to teach the importance of helping those in need. In fact, the term "Good Samaritan" has become an idiom for those who demonstrate unusual, sacrificial kindness toward others. But while it is important to help the needy, that is not the point of the story. It is in reality a story about how one inherits eternal life, because that is the question that initiated the conversation to which this story is the conclusion. "<sup>4</sup>

Scholar's Note: A lawyer in that day was one who was knowledgeable in matters of the law (the Old Testament scriptures) and was part of the religious establishment.

6. Why do you think the lawyer, being part of the religious establishment who prided themselves on knowing all about questions of the Jewish religion, wanted to ask Jesus about eternal life?
  
7. What do you think Jesus' underlying assumption was in saying to the lawyer in verse 28 "do this and you will live"?

Scholar's Note: "The command calls for total commitment to selfless love (agapaō; the highest kind of love) involving all human faculties, including the heart, soul, strength, and mind. These two commands sum up the Ten Commandments, the first half of which describes how to love God, while the second half describes how to love one's neighbor. "5

Digging Deeper: Read the following Scripture:

*Romans 3:19-20 "Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are."(NLT)*

*Galatians 3:24 "Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith." (NASB)*

-What is the purpose of the law (the 10 Commandments)?

8. If to gain eternal life, one thing you must do is love your neighbor as yourself, what do you think the lawyer was hoping would be Jesus' answer to "who is my neighbor?"

- Why do you think he ignored the other part of the commandment?

9. Verse 29 tells us the lawyer wished to justify himself. What kind of response would have been the opposite of trying to justify himself?

10. In Jesus' story, why would the priest and the Levite be unqualified for eternal life?

11. Remembering that Samaritans and Jews were sworn enemies how did Jesus broaden the scope of the command to love your neighbor, instead of limiting it like the lawyer hoped?



Anyone with even a shred of self-awareness knows that we do not love God with all of our heart, and all of our strength and with our entire mind, all of the time, perfectly. Much less proactively, selflessly, loving everyone we meet, even our worst enemy all of the time, perfectly. To try and justify ourselves is just ludicrous. The only proper response to this kind of requirement is to lay down any pretense and admit that this is totally beyond our capacity or our desire.

Jesus came and fulfilled every last detail of God's law for us because we could not do it on our own. When we fall to our knees before Jesus and admit that we are incapable of living up to God's standard and trust in him as our perfect substitute and Savior, the law no longer condemns us! Jesus has gained eternal life for us!

If you, like the lawyer, are not sure about your eternal destiny, don't hang onto your pride and self-goodness. Call on Jesus; cast yourself on his love, mercy and forgiveness. Then talk to your discipler or another believer about this.

If you have trusted in Jesus as your Savior, maybe there are times you fall back into a legalistic way of thinking or forget that the law doesn't condemn you any longer. Reflect on these thoughts:

- ❖ When you are discouraged by your sin do you berate yourself and hide in shame or do you remind yourself and rest in the fact that Jesus did perfectly what you fail to do? Thank him for this, ask for his forgiveness and rejoice in the burden lifted.
- ❖ When you are not obeying God in a certain area of your life do you ever find yourself thinking or saying something like... "I'll make it up to you God." This is trying to be your own savior and justify yourself. Instead, admit your disobedience and go to God and ask forgiveness.

Day 5- Luke 10:38-42

Scholar's Note: "Martha is an Aramaic name that means "mistress" (i.e., a female head of a household), which suits her character and position. She may well have been a widow, since there is no mention of her husband and Luke describes the place as her home. Since she is usually mentioned first when the sisters are named together (John 11: 29- 30; 12: 2- 3), Martha was probably the older of the two. Along with her sister, Martha evidently was a believer in Jesus, since she called Him "Lord".<sup>6</sup>

12. What was Mary doing in verse 39?

13. What was Martha distracted from? And what was she distracted by?

Scholar's Note: The sense of "distracted" here is "to be pulled away" or "dragged away." The implication is that Martha desperately wanted to hear Jesus herself, to be at his feet, but she was pulled away by her duties."<sup>7</sup>

14. What is Martha questioning about Jesus in verse 40?

-What causes you to ask Jesus if he cares?

-What truths do you know about Jesus that totally discredit this thought?

15. What is Martha's complaint in verse 40?

16. After voicing her complaint to Jesus, what else does she say in verse 40c?

-How does this show that her perspective is off?

17. What is one wonderful thing about what Mary has chosen? (v. 42)

Picture and Ponder: “The “one thing” that is “necessary”, “the good portion,” is listening to the Word of God...Jesus here provides wisdom for all who are serving Christ in various callings. It is all too common, and too easy, for our service to Christ to drag us away from his Word.”<sup>8</sup>



All you Marthas out there are saying, “well *someone* has to make the food and serve it and clean it up!” Martha was distracted from spending time with Jesus, but the thing that was distracting her was a good and needed thing. Yet Jesus says that only *one* thing is needed. In our Luke passage Jesus shows us the “one thing that is necessary” with the example of Mary sitting at his feet, learning from him.

Martha’s God given gift was service and hospitality, but she forgot that the one she was serving was infinitely more valuable than the service itself. Jesus could have spoken a whole gourmet meal into existence; he doesn’t *need* us to do anything for him. He allows us to join in his work and serve him because it glorifies him and it blesses us.

But how easy it is for us in our serving to get wrapped up in ourselves, instead of wrapped up in Him. Our service becomes a thing unto itself instead of a thing unto God. We regularly disconnect ourselves from God and go off in our own strength and the result is what we see in Martha in this instance- anger and joylessness. The only way we will find joy, blessing and fruitfulness in our service to God is if we first sit at his feet.

- ❖ What things are you anxious, troubled and distracted by that keep you from spending time with God?
  
- ❖ What kind of eternal value do any of these things have?
  
- ❖ One of the biggest sins almost all of us struggle with is that we love other things more than we love God and our priorities prove it. What things do you do that nurture your love for God? What things do you do that suffocate your love for God?
  
  
- ❖ How does prioritizing your intake of God’s word energize your service to him?



- ❖ In your experience what happens to your service when you aren't regularly in God's word?

Scholar's Note: " ...in this account, the necessity of being a student of the Divine Teacher is established, and the lessons from His lips will unfold through the subsequent chapters. " <sup>9</sup>

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

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<sup>1</sup> MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series) (Kindle Locations 13582-13583). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Hughes, R. Kent. *Luke, That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word series*, (Crossway, Wheaton Ill. 2015)

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

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