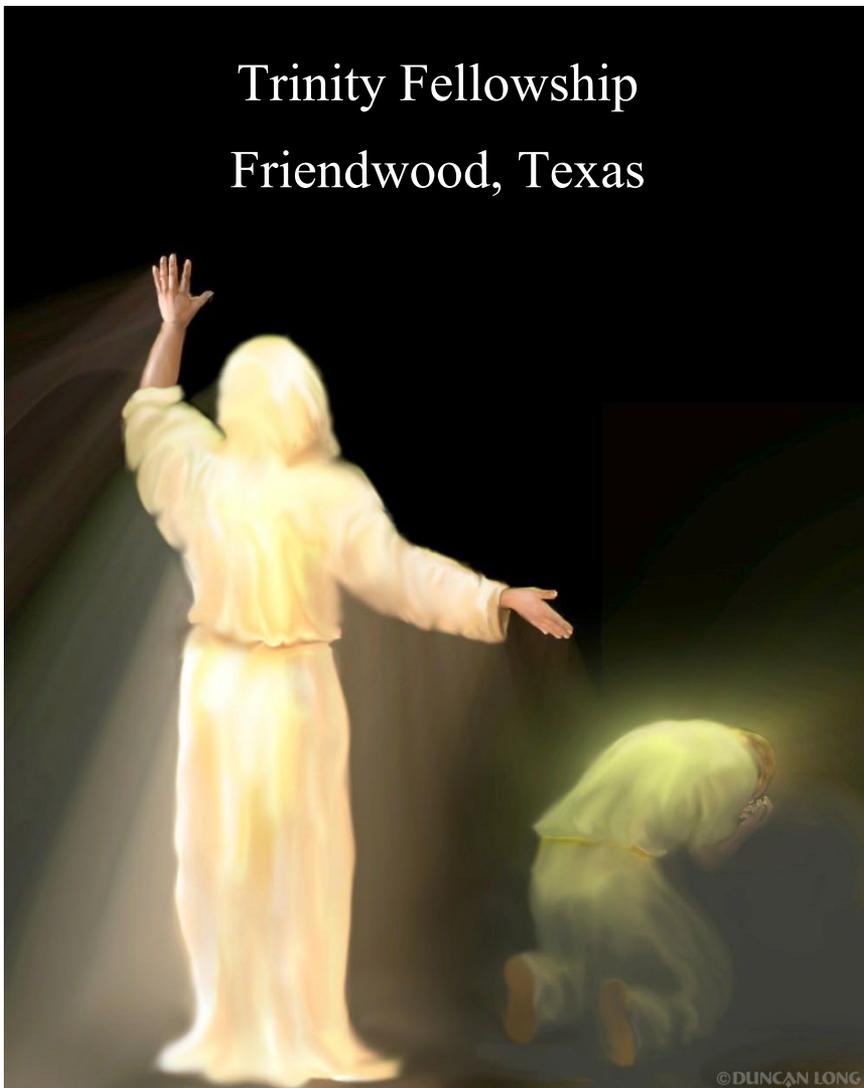


The Journey to Jerusalem
A Devotional Study in Luke 16-19
Late Fall, 2019

Trinity Fellowship
Friendwood, Texas



Cover: detail from *The Pharisee and the Tax Collector*, Duncan
Long – date unknown

The Litmus Test

Luke 16:1-15

Preaching Date: November 10, 2019

Worship Theme: The Richness of God

Key Sentence: Your attitude toward money is a litmus test of your attitude toward God.

Outline:

I. Use wealth so others will see God's goodness and graciousness.

(Luke 16:1-12)

II. Love God, not wealth (Luke 16:13-15)

Dr. Carl F. H. Henry, the dean of evangelical theologians, was asked in a 1990 interview, "One of the major weaknesses, perhaps, of the Western church is our affluence. What kind of crippling effect has this had on the Western church and what can we do to remedy that?"

Dr. Henry answered:

"I don't think that God despises riches; in fact, He gives them to us. What He despises is the misuse of them, and He rewards stewardship. Even Christian missions owe a great debt to the consecrated and often sacrificial philanthropy of well-to-do Christian leaders. What we need to do is enlarge the vision and burden of those to whom God has given much so they understand that they have an opportunity that is rare in the history of Christianity to substantially advance the way of Christ."

Quoted by R. Kent Hughes in *Preaching the Word - Luke, Volume II: That You May Know the Truth*.

Preaching Date: November 10, 2019

This week's passage: Luke 16:1-15

Lesson 1

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Underline the thoughts that stand out to you.

Write out one verse that stands out to you.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple of observations you make as you consider the whole passage. Consider the important events, people and teachings.

What connects this passage to God's Big Story of redemption and rescue?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. Is there a way that this passage connects with your life or resonates with your heart?

Pray God's word back to Him. Give Him thanks for the truths that He has revealed in this passage.

Preaching Date: November 10, 2019

This week's passage: Luke 16:1-15

Lesson 2

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Mark all the references to God in a distinctive way.

Write out one verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse than Day 1.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple more observations as you consider the main passage. Is there something that stands out to you about God (Father, Son or Spirit) from this portion of Scripture?

How does this passage display the character and plans of God?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. What did you learn about God that could impact the way you think about Him or respond to Him?

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Preaching Date: November 10, 2019

This week's passage: Luke 16:1-15

Lesson 3

Read the Scripture passage for the week once again. Mark repeated words or phrases and thoughts that seem important to Luke.

Write out the verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse from Day 1 and 2.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down one or two more observations as you consider the passage a final time. If you like, use an English or Greek dictionary, a concordance or the cross references in your Bible to further explore interesting words or phrases.

What thoughts from this passage lead you toward wonder and worship?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. How do Luke's key thoughts impact your thinking? How would you like them to impact your words, your actions, and your attitudes?

Pray God's word back to Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your responses to the truths you have been considering this week.

What Will it Take to Persuade You?

Luke 16:16-31

Preaching Date: November 17, 2019

Worship: Resurrected Lord

Key Sentence:

God has done everything He can to persuade you to turn to Him.

Outline:

I. (Parentheses: Related thoughts) (Luke 16:16-18)

II. A Clear Choice: Heaven or Hell (Luke 16:19-26)

III. Clear Evidence: The Bible and Resurrection (Luke 16:27-31)

Throughout the Bible we find people looking for just one more little piece of proof, for just one more little piece of evidence or persuasion. Think of Gideon, who first put the sheepskin out, and said "let it be wet in the morning and the ground dry" - and it was. Then he put it out and said "let it be dry in the morning and the ground wet" - and it was.

In the New Testament, we find the crowds continually testing Jesus - looking for some sign, some proof that he was in fact the Messiah, and no matter what miracle it was that he did, they always wanted more. A classic example of this is in John Chapter 6 Jesus feeds the five thousand - and just a day later they come to him and say: Now what miraculous sign will you do, that we may see it and believe?

Even Thomas doubted right up to the point where he put his hand in the Lord's side, put his fingers in the nail holes.

So the question becomes - what does it take to persuade somebody? What kind of evidence will move us to faith?

Preaching Date: November 17, 2019
This week's passage: Luke 16:16-31
Lesson 1

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Write out one verse that stands out to you.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple of observations you make as you consider the whole passage. Consider the important events, people and teachings.

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Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. Is there a way that this passage connects with your life or resonates with your heart?

Pray God's word back to Him. Give Him thanks for the truths that He has revealed in this passage.

Preaching Date: November 17, 2019

This week's passage: Luke 16:16-31

Lesson 2

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Mark all the references to God in a distinctive way.

Write out one verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse than Day 1.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple more observations as you consider the main passage. Is there something that stands out to you about God (Father, Son or Spirit) from this portion of Scripture?

How does this passage display the character and plans of God?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage.
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Pray God's word back to Him. Talk to God about what you have learned and how you desire to respond.

Preaching Date: November 17, 2019

This week's passage: Luke 16:16-31

Lesson 3

Read the Scripture passage for the week once again. Mark repeated words or phrases and thoughts that seem important to Luke.

Write out the verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse from Day 1 and 2.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down one or two more observations as you consider the passage a final time. If you like, use an English or Greek dictionary, a concordance or the cross references in your Bible to further explore interesting words or phrases.

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Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. How do Luke's key thoughts impact your thinking? How would you like them to impact your words, your actions, and your attitudes?

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Now and Not Yet

Luke 17:1-37

Preaching Date: November 24, 2019

Worship: Thankful (Thanksgiving)

Key Sentence:

Discipleship pervades daily life and future expectation

Outline:

I. Daily Discipleship (Luke 17:1-19)

II. Future Expectation (Luke 17:20-37)

Did you ever hear the word proactive? It's been enormously popular in business circles for decades. Every company wants to be proactive.

The dictionary says that proactive means “serving to prepare for an expected occurrence or situation; to intervene, or control, to anticipate.” I'd define it as taking action in advance against a future event. It's the opposite of reactive, which means an action taken in response to an event that has already happened.

Proactive is used when a company sees a new technology down the road, which will change the way they do business, and prepares itself in advance for that new technology. This is usually a mark of success for a company. Proactive is Apple seeing the cell phone as much more than a phone when they introduced the first iPhone more than a decade ago. Proactive is Amazon seeing the future in online ordering and fast delivery not just of books but of everything.

Proactive is taking positive steps to be ready for what you know is coming. And isn't that the way you want to live your life? To be prepared for what comes, and to wait with confidence for changes? That would be nice wouldn't it?

Preaching Date: November 24, 2019

This week's passage: Luke 17:1-37

Lesson 1

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Underline the thoughts that stand out to you.

Write out one verse that stands out to you.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple of observations you make as you consider the whole passage. Consider the important events, people and teachings.

What connects this passage to God's Big Story of redemption and rescue?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. Is there a way that this passage connects with your life or resonates with your heart?

Pray God's word back to Him. Give Him thanks for the truths that He has revealed in this passage.

Preaching Date: November 24, 2019

This week's passage: Luke 17:1-37

Lesson 2

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Mark all the references to God in a distinctive way.

Write out one verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse than Day 1.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple more observations as you consider the main passage. Is there something that stands out to you about God (Father, Son or Spirit) from this portion of Scripture?

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Preaching Date: November 24, 2019

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Lesson 3

Read the Scripture passage for the week once again. Mark repeated words or phrases and thoughts that seem important to Luke.

Write out the verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse from Day 1 and 2.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down one or two more observations as you consider the passage a final time. If you like, use an English or Greek dictionary, a concordance or the cross references in your Bible to further explore interesting words or phrases.

What thoughts from this passage lead you toward wonder and worship?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. How do Luke's key thoughts impact your thinking? How would you like them to impact your words, your actions, and your attitudes?

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The Heart of Faith

Luke 18:1-17

Preaching Date: January 5, 2020

Worship: Faith in the Faithful One

Key Sentence: Let adjectives shape your faith

Outline:

I. Persistent Faith (Luke 18:1-8)

II. Humble Faith (Luke 18:9-14)

III. Childlike Faith (Luke 18:15-17)

The key sentence for this message is simple but important. “Let adjectives shape your faith.”

I suppose if I’m going to use a word like “adjective” in a key sentence I ought to do you the courtesy of defining it. Simply put, adjectives are words that are used to describe or modify nouns or pronouns. A blue ball, a happy puppy, a quick dinner. As one grammar website said “Without adjectives, we wouldn't know if you had a serene holiday or a disastrous holiday.”

In the same way, we’re going to look today at how adjectives can describe or modify or shape our faith. Jesus doesn’t want us just to have faith but to have persistent faith, and humble faith and childlike faith.

Preaching Date: January 5, 2020

This week's passage: Luke 18:1-17

Lesson 1

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Underline the thoughts that stand out to you.

Write out one verse that stands out to you.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple of observations you make as you consider the whole passage. Consider the important events, people and teachings.

What connects this passage to God's Big Story of redemption and rescue?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. Is there a way that this passage connects with your life or resonates with your heart?

Pray God's word back to Him. Give Him thanks for the truths that He has revealed in this passage.

Preaching Date: January 5, 2020

This week's passage: Luke 18:1-17

Lesson 2

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Mark all the references to God in a distinctive way.

Write out one verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse than Day 1.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple more observations as you consider the main passage. Is there something that stands out to you about God (Father, Son or Spirit) from this portion of Scripture?

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Preaching Date: January 5, 2020

This week's passage: Luke 18:1-17

Lesson 3

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Eternal Life

Luke 18:18-30

Preaching Date: January 12, 2020

Worship: With Him Forever

Key Sentence:

Eternal life is not earned by our merit, but achieved by God for us.

Outline:

I. The barrier to eternal life (Luke 18:18-25)

II. The giver of eternal life (Luke 18:26-27)

III. The blessing of eternal life (Luke 18:28-30)

Luke 18:22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

Now this demand has been the source of a lot of debate over the years. Some have said that all believers should give up their possessions to serve Jesus. Some have said that a select group of believers, like monks, should embrace poverty. Many have said that this demand applied only to the young man, not to anyone else.

While I agree that the specific details applied only to this case, I still think we need to be made very uncomfortable by this statement. Because it asks the hard question: is there anything in your life that has higher priority than your relationship with Jesus? For this rich young man, the thing that stood in the way of giving Jesus first priority, was his riches. What might it be for you and for me?

Jesus demands first place: a higher place than your work, a higher place than your possessions, a higher place than your comfort, a higher place even than your relationships. First place. That is what God, the good God, desires in your life.

Preaching Date: January 12, 2020

This week's passage: Luke 18:18-30

Lesson 1

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Underline the thoughts that stand out to you.

Write out one verse that stands out to you.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple of observations you make as you consider the whole passage. Consider the important events, people and teachings.

What connects this passage to God's Big Story of redemption and rescue?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. Is there a way that this passage connects with your life or resonates with your heart?

Pray God's word back to Him. Give Him thanks for the truths that He has revealed in this passage.

Preaching Date: January 12, 2020

This week's passage: Luke 18:18-30

Lesson 2

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Mark all the references to God in a distinctive way.

Write out one verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse than Day 1.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple more observations as you consider the main passage. Is there something that stands out to you about God (Father, Son or Spirit) from this portion of Scripture?

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Write down one or two personal applications from this passage.
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Preaching Date: January 12, 2020

This week's passage: Luke 18:18-30

Lesson 3

Read the Scripture passage for the week once again. Mark repeated words or phrases and thoughts that seem important to Luke.

Write out the verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse from Day 1 and 2.

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What Kind of Messiah Do You Want?

Luke 18:31 – 19:10

Preaching Date: January 19, 2020

Worship: Jesus Came to Save Us

Key Sentence: Jesus is God's Kind of Messiah!

Outline:

I. The Messiah Who Suffers for Us (Luke 18:31-34)

II. The Messiah Who Cares for Us (Luke 18:35-43)

III. The Messiah Who Seeks and Saves Us (Luke 19:1-10)

Zacchaeus was a tax collector, and they were considered the worst sort of people. They were generally greedy and unfair, they were viewed as traitors to their people. They had put money first in their lives, and were ripping off their own people, in order to gain favor with the Gentile oppressors.

And Zacchaeus was not just a tax collector, but a chief tax collector, in charge of others, maybe in charge of the whole district. So Zacchaeus would be considered probably the worst man in town, not a friend to anybody, and by those who were religious, he would be considered the worst sort of sinner.

What kind of person is this, in the privacy of his own soul. He is outcast. He is despised. He is made to feel worthless despite his great wealth. And I suspect he is very, very lonely; hurting to have a real friend who cared for him.

This loneliness finally overwhelms him enough, that he was willing to lay aside his dignity and climb up in that tree to see Jesus.

Preaching Date: January 19, 2020

This week's passage: Luke 18:31 – 19:10

Lesson 1

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Underline the thoughts that stand out to you.

Write out one verse that stands out to you.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple of observations you make as you consider the whole passage. Consider the important events, people and teachings.

What connects this passage to God's Big Story of redemption and rescue?

Write down one or two personal applications from this passage. Is there a way that this passage connects with your life or resonates with your heart?

Pray God's word back to Him. Give Him thanks for the truths that He has revealed in this passage.

Preaching Date: January 19, 2020

This week's passage: Luke 18:31 – 19:10

Lesson 2

Read the Scripture passage for the week. Mark all the references to God in a distinctive way.

Write out one verse that stands out to you. This can be the same verse or a different verse than Day 1.

Record your thoughts about your verse of the day. Why is this verse particularly meaningful or interesting?

Write down a couple more observations as you consider the main passage. Is there something that stands out to you about God (Father, Son or Spirit) from this portion of Scripture?

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Preaching Date: January 19, 2020

This week's passage: Luke 18:31 – 19:10

Lesson 3

Read the Scripture passage for the week once again. Mark repeated words or phrases and thoughts that seem important to Luke.

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The Church Age

Luke 19:11-27

Preaching Date: January 26, 2020

Worship: Christ, the Lord of the Church

Key Sentence:

Until the King comes, good stewards wisely invest his resources

Outline:

I. The King is Coming (11-15 and 27)

II. Invest Until He Comes (13 and 15-26)

The parable Jesus gives here played off the "front-page" political context of the times in which Jesus lived, specifically the events that had surrounded the ascension of the present Palestinian ruler, Archelaus, and his vain desire to be granted the title king. The Romans, under whom he served, avoided using the title rex (king) for their own rulers, but on occasion would allow one of their vassal rulers in the eastern provinces to be called such. Herod the Great, Archelaus' father, had been granted the title when, in league with the Romans, he defeated the Parthians and was then feasted by Mark Antony on "the first day of his reign." That is why he is called "King Herod" in the Bible.

When King Herod died, his will gave Archelaus over half of his kingdom, but the title could not be passed on. And poor Archelaus' ego smarted. So it was that Archelaus assembled an entourage and departed for Rome to ask Caesar for the title. The group included his mother (Malthace), his friends (Poplas, Ptolemy, and Nicholas), and other family members (namely, Solome and her children and various nephews and sons-in-law of the late king. But to Archelaus' surprise, in Rome some of his family opposed his getting the title, even accusing him before Caesar. Then, even more surprising, a delegation of fifty Palestinians (amazingly Jews and Samaritans together) had also traveled to Rome to oppose him before Caesar.

R. Kent Hughes, *Preaching the Word - Luke, Volume II: That You May Know the Truth.*

Preaching Date: January 26, 2020

This week's passage: Luke 19:11-27

Lesson 1

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Write out one verse that stands out to you.

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Write down a couple of observations you make as you consider the whole passage. Consider the important events, people and teachings.

What connects this passage to God's Big Story of redemption and rescue?

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Preaching Date: January 26, 2020

This week's passage: Luke 19:11-27

Lesson 2

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Preaching Date: January 26, 2020

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Lesson 3

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