

# Zechariah & Luke: The Returning King

## Lesson 6: The Servant King

**Key Verse:** *And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let [her] deny himself and take us [her] cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save [her] life will lose it, but whoever loses [her] life for my sake will save it. ~Luke 9.23-24*

Next time you are at the self-checkout of a chain store, take a look at yourself in the security camera watching your checkout process. Having done this, I was repulsed by what I saw: bags under my eyes, small hairs frizzing out, blotchy skin, an ill-fitting top, and a disappointed and unflattering expression on my face caused by how I looked in the lens of security footage! This did NOT align with the image in my mirror at home: a well-primped, casually dressed, mother ready to run errands. Likewise, our image of ourselves is favorably skewed towards looking our best and behaving our best. In truth, the image in the mirror is of a sin-stained nature. Jesus mirrors His divine perfections in human form as the **Son of Man**. There is much hope for us in the Spirit's indwelling, transforming power to provide the heart and mind of our Savior through **discipleship**. Through a process called sanctification, we all are enabled to look more and more like a **disciple** of our Teacher, rather than a disciple of sin.

*Lord, You have said to me that if I am to be Your disciple, I am to deny myself all day every day, even when I don't want to, and to follow Your commands, not my desires. You warn me that if I want to save myself with my deeds, then I will lose my eternal life in Your presence. But if I am willing to humbly submit to You, Your will, and Your ways, then we will never ever be separated. I will never experience life on earth without You! As I read Your Word, I beg for a heart and mind open to Your ways and Your will, and a humble submission to You, especially as You teach me truths about me that I don't want to hear. (Luke 9.23-24 + 7.23)*

**Luke 6.1-9.62 CH 6** On a Sabbath, while he was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked and ate some heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands. **2** But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath?" **3** And Jesus answered them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him: **4** how he entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those with him?" **5** And he said to them, "The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

**6** On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered. **7** And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him. **8** But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come and stand here." And he rose and stood there. **9** And Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?" **10** And after looking around at them all he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." And he did so, and his hand was restored. **11** But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

**12** In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. **13** And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: **14** Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, **15** and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, **16** and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. **17** And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, **18** who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. **19** And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

**20** And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. **21** "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. **22** "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! **23** Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven.

**24** "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. **25** "Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. "Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. **26** "Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.

**27** "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. **29** To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either.

**30** Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back.

**31** And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. **32** "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even

sinners love those who love them. **33** And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. **34** And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. **35** But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.

**36** Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. **37** "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; **38** give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

**39** He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? **40** A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. **41** Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? **42** How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

**43** "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, **44** for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thornbushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. **45** The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

**46** "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? **47** Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: **48** he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. **49** But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."

**CH 7** After he had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. **2** Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. **3** When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. **4** And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, **5** for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue."

**6** And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. **7** Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. **8** For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." **9** When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." **10** And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.

**11** Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. **12** As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. **13** And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." **14** Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." **15** And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. **16** Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

**17** And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country. **18** The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, **19** calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" **20** And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" **21** In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. **22** And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. **23** And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

**24** When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? **25** What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. **26** What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. **27** This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" **28** I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

**29** (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, **30** but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

**31** "To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? **32** They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, "'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.'" **33** For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' **34** The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' **35** Yet wisdom is justified by all her

children.”

**36** One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. **37** And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, **38** and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. **39** Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.”

**40** And Jesus answering said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he answered, “Say it, Teacher.” **41** “A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. **42** When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?” **43** Simon answered, “The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.” And he said to him, “You have judged rightly.”

**44** Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. **45** You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. **46** You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. **47** Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” **48** And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” **49** Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?” **50** And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

**CH 8** Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, **2** and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, **3** and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means. **4** And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, **5** “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. **6** And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. **7** And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. **8** And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold.” As he said these things, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

**9** And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, **10** he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ **11** Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. **12** The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. **13** And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. **14** And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. **15** As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. **16** “No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. **17** For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light. **18** Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.”

**19** Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. **20** And he was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you.” **21** But he answered them, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.”

**22** One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side of the lake.” So they set out, **23** and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. **24** And they went and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. **25** He said to them, “Where is your faith?” And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?” **26** Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.

**27** When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. **28** When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.” **29** For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) **30** Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him. **31** And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. **32** Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. **33** Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

**34** When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. **35** Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. **36** And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. **37** Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. **38** The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away,

saying, **39** "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

**40** Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. **41** And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue. And falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house, **42** for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying.

As Jesus went, the people pressed around him. **43** And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone. **44** She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased. **45** And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!" **46** But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me." **47** And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. **48** And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

**49** While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." **50** But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well." **51** And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. **52** And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping." **53** And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. **54** But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." **55** And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat. **56** And her parents were amazed, but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

**CH 9** And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, **2** and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. **3** And he said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. **4** And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. **5** And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them." **6** And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

**7** Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, **8** by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen. **9** Herod said, "John I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?" And he sought to see him.

**10** On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. **11** When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing.

**12** Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, "Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place." **13** But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." **14** For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." **15** And they did so, and had them all sit down. **16** And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. **17** And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

**18** Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" **19** And they answered, "John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen." **20** Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God." **21** And he strictly charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, **22** saying, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

**23** And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. **24** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. **25** For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? **26** For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. **27** But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God."

**28** Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. **29** And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. **30** And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, **31** who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. **32** Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. **33** And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. **34** As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. **35** And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" **36** And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

**37** On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. **38** And behold, a man from the crowd cried out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. **39** And behold, a spirit seizes him, and he suddenly cries out. It convulses him so that he foams at the mouth, and shatters him, and will hardly leave him. **40** And I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." **41** Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." **42** While he was coming, the demon threw him to the ground and convulsed him. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. **43** And all were astonished at the majesty of God. But while they were all marveling at everything he was doing, Jesus said to his disciples, **44** "Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men." **45** But they did not understand this saying, and it was concealed from them, so that they might not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

**46** An argument arose among them as to which of them was the greatest. **47** But Jesus, knowing the reasoning of their hearts, took a child and put him by his side **48** and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great." **49** John answered, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us." **50** But Jesus said to him, "Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you."

**51** When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. **52** And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. **53** But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. **54** And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" **55** But he turned and rebuked them.

**56** And they went on to another village. **57** As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." **58** And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." **59** To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." **60** And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." **61** Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." **62** Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

**Diamonds:** If you read this and felt like you were "drinking from a fire hose", you are not alone. Luke can leave us breathless at the end of all he chronicles about Jesus's ministry. At times, you can imagine yourself listening to Luke flip through page after page of notes, repeatedly saying, "and then...and then...and then...and then..."

1. Which of the stories about Jesus from Luke's "notes" in chapters 6-9 is your favorite, and why?

These chapters introduce us to God's purpose of making all things new, both spiritual and physical. The chapters clearly illustrate that Jesus's ministry is to reverse the curse of sin (Genesis 3).<sup>1</sup> Just as Zechariah has much symbolism that leaves us salivating for eternity with Him, Jesus's healings and declarations are likewise symbolic of all to come when we eternally dwell with Him. Thus, they too leave us longing for His return!

One of the highlights of this passage is the choosing of Jesus's apostles from among His disciples (Luke 6.12-16). The apostles operated like interns or an inner circle of men, while the disciples were larger in number, following Jesus, listening to His teaching, and witnessing His work.

2. What did Jesus do before He chose the twelve interns or apostles (6.12)?

Consisting of a despised tax collector (Matthew), a political insurrectionist (Simon), a loyal skeptic (Thomas), and a thieving betrayer (Judas), Jesus's choice of interns could not have been a more chaotic mix of ideologically different, controversial men.<sup>2</sup> But Jesus united them all under His ministry, for God's glory. He then preached of the blessings, or rewards, and woes, or curses, followed by a practical application of all Ten Commandments (listed in Exodus 20).

3. How do you see that Jesus's sermons in 6.20-49 unite His people? What would your day look like if you followed Jesus's preaching here? How would your view of yourself and of others change if you followed Jesus's applications?

Jesus is confronting the Pharisees with the truth of their recalcitrant unbelief in Luke 7.31-35. No matter how many prophecies both John the Baptist and Jesus fulfilled, the "wisdom" of the Pharisees was going to give birth

<sup>1</sup> Gladd, Benjamin, *Help Me Teach the Bible*, Benjamin Gladd on Teaching Luke, The Gospel Coalition (April 1, 2020)

<sup>2</sup> Sproul, pgs.173-176

to their sin and eventual eternal separation from the God they said they loved, obeyed, and worshipped! This was fully illustrated when Jesus has dinner with a Pharisee in Luke 7.36-50. It is a scary consideration for a group of religiously trained Torah experts to have been destroyed by their own “wisdom” when God is sitting right in front of them!

4. What practical steps do you take to avoid the same trap as the Pharisees, trusting in your own “wisdom”? How do you prevent becoming confident in your own understanding of God and Jesus causing you to become blind to His truth written in front of you?

Jesus has an interesting response to the man He removed demons from in Luke 8.38. Rather than denying him the opportunity to follow Jesus as His disciple, Jesus gives this man a job.

5. What job does Jesus give him in Luke 8.39? Noting his response, what would it be like to have dinner with this man? What stories would you be able to share?

Right afterwards Jesus gave his twelve apostles a job—“to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal” (Luke 9.2). There is a symbolic message to this related to the expansion of God’s kingdom by all of God’s people. Jesus was limited to being in one place at one time. Thus, the sending of others informs us today of what we are to likewise be about: speaking of God’s kingdom and His eternal spiritual healing provided in Christ. Their enthusiastic reports of success in Luke 9.10, however, proved to inspire pride and division that eventually resulted in Jesus’s rebuke, or disapproval and criticism of them.

6. What bold assertions did the apostles make in Luke 9.46-50 and 53-55?

7. How does this kind of pride lead to division among God’s people? What role could repentance play in avoiding the rebuke of Jesus?

**Deity: Son of Man~** (Luke 7.33-35) “God’s program started in Genesis 1 when the King of the universe created the world in six days. There is a King-God. And there is the realm of King-earth. Man, created as God’s image bearer on the sixth day, was tasked with a kingdom command to fill, rule, and subdue the earth for God’s glory (Genesis 1.26-28).

But man failed in his kingdom task when Adam sinned against God (Genesis 3). Known as “The Fall”, Adam’s sin interrupted God’s creation command for mankind. Tragically, the fulfillment of humanity’s promised potential could no longer reach its fullest expression because of man’s fallen nature. Any exercise of that original dominion has proven to be incomplete and imperfect.

The psalmist [in Psalm 8.3-9] presented the ideal for mankind, not the current reality, and the designed future of kingdom rule, not the diminished past and present. Of course, the Messiah, as the “Son of Man”, would fulfill mankind’s role as the human race’s only perfect representative (Hebrews 2.5-14). He would rule over earth and succeed as the last Adam in the realm where the first Adam failed (1 Corinthians 15.20-28,45).<sup>3</sup>

Rather than a focus on Jesus’s humanity, this deity or attribute highlights Jesus’s deity by highlighting His sinless life on earth. The impossibility of such a human feat proves His Divine nature. He IS God.

Within this passage of Luke, Jesus clearly identifies Himself as Lord over our earthly experiences and reality.

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<sup>3</sup> MacArthur & Mayhue, pgs. 851-852

The basis of His declarations and His actions is His Divine, Absolute Authority over all of creation, that is, earth and all that it is in it, or interfaces within it.

8. What is the Son of Man Lord of, or over, according to these selected passages of Luke?
  - a. 6.5
  - b. 7.1-17
  - c. 7.47-50
  - d. 8.22-25
  - e. 8.43-44
  - f. 9.13-17
  - g. 9.42-43
9. Which of these is your favorite? There are many other examples that were not included in the list above. Freely find another example to share as your favorite example of Jesus as Son of Man.

**Doctrine: Disciple/Discipleship-** (Luke 9.23) A disciple is a learner or pupil. Jesus expounds yet simplifies this definition.

10. From Luke 8.21, what is Jesus's definition of a disciple?
11. Using the list of verses from this passage of Luke, find a key word or two that describes the attribute of what is expected of a disciple of Jesus. Choose one chapter to focus on but listen to your fellow group members and take notes about the other chapters. We will be using this list in a future lesson as well:

Chapter 6	Chapter 8
V 12	V 1
V 27-29	V 9-10
V 30	V 38-39
V 31-35	Chapter 9
V 36-39	V 10-12
V 43-45	V 18-20
V 46-48	V 23-25
Chapter 7	V 49-50
V 9, 50	V 56-58
V 13	V 59-60
V 23	V 61-62

12. Reflect on this list of attributes found in a disciple of Jesus. How might these attributes draw people to Christ? How are these attributes "winsome", or attractive and appealing in character?
13. How winsome are you? As one of Jesus's disciples, how effective are you at drawing friends, enemies, and strangers to Christ?

14. Which disciple attributes challenge your ability to be winsome in drawing friends, enemies, and strangers to Christ? This may be a good start to your SSP!

Discipleship is the audience or gathering of disciples. It is often used to describe programs that teach, support, and encourage disciples in growing to behave and think more like their teacher. Thus, your time spent together in a small group operates as a discipleship opportunity.

15. What was Jesus's attitude toward the expansion of discipleship (Luke 9.10-11)? What attitude did the apostles have toward the expansion of discipleship (Luke 9.12)?
16. What did the apostles realize when they looked into the mirror of Jesus's heart towards the crowds? How did their attitude and decisions reflect their hearts, but not Jesus's heart? Whose mirror image is reflected in your heart? How does this truth about you challenge you?

**Your Scripture-Soaked Prayer:** Using the scripture you studied this week, specifically one or two that were particularly meaningful to you, to write your SSP. Several questions above lend themselves to being incorporated into your SSP.

### Lecture Outline:

**Aim:** God's call for His people is costly discipleship.

- I. Preparation for the Cost (Luke 6-7) **T1:** Jesus, the Son of Man, has the right to demand costly obedience from His disciples.
  - a. How prepared are you to obey Jesus's commands, even when they are costly?
  - b. In what specific ways are you walking as a disciple of Jesus?
- II. Power for the Cost (Luke 8-9) **T2:** Jesus, the Son of Man, requires His disciples to deny self and daily take up their cross to follow Him.
  - a. Which demands of discipleship are most difficult for you to comprehend or accept?
  - b. Which demand are you refusing to obey?
  - c. What is keeping you from wholehearted surrender to Jesus as HIS blood bought disciple?

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