



***Becoming Fully Devoted Followers  
by Studying the Followers Before Us***

**WEEK 40**

**LUKE**

**OCTOBER 1-5, 2007**

DAY	THROUGH THE BIBLE	ABBREVIATED STUDY
Monday	Mark 1-4, Psalm 46	Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1, Psalm 46
Tuesday	Mark 5-7, Psalm 47	Colossians 4:14, 2 Timothy 4:11, Luke 4:31-44, Psalm 47
Wednesday	Mark 8-10, Psalm 48	Acts 2:38-39; Luke 15:20; Luke 18:13-14, Psalm 48
Thursday	Mark 11-13, Psalm 49	Luke 9:51, 18:31-34, 19:28, 24:50-52, Phil 2:5-11, Psalm 49
Friday	Mark 14-16, Psalm 50	Philemon 1 & 24, Psalm 50



Connecting people to abundant life.

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## PRAYER JOURNAL

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**This week I am praying for . . .**

. . . Jim and Jan Holsclaw serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators. Praises for Jan's clear CT scans and full recovery from life-threatening ovarian cancer. Jan reports that she feels WONDERFUL and that her energy level seems to be close to full strength. Continue to pray for good health and energy for both Jim and Jan as they teach and train new families serving with Wycliffe.

. . . Glenkirk's Lay Counseling program and the people in our community receiving comfort and guidance from our trained lay counselors.

And . . .

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<p><i>Walk Through The Bible Readings</i> <b>MONTH AT A GLANCE</b></p>
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**October 1-5 – Week 40**

Monday	Mark 1-4	Psalm 46
Tuesday	Mark 5-7	Psalm 47
Wednesday	Mark 8-10	Psalm 48
Thursday	Mark 11-13	Psalm 49
Friday	Mark 14-16	Psalm 50

**October 8-12 – Week 41**

Monday	Luke 1-2	Psalm 51
Tuesday	Luke 3-5	Psalm 52
Wednesday	Luke 6-7	Psalm 53
Thursday	Luke 8-10	Psalm 54
Friday	Luke 11-12	Psalm 55

**October 15-19 – Week 42**

Monday	Luke 13-14	Psalm 56
Tuesday	Luke 15-17	Psalm 57
Wednesday	Luke 18-20	Psalm 58
Thursday	Luke 21-22	Psalm 59
Friday	Luke 23-24	Psalm 60

**October 22-26 – Week 43**

Monday	John 1-2	Psalm 61
Tuesday	John 3-4	Psalm 62
Wednesday	John 5-6	Psalm 63
Thursday	John 7-8	Psalm 64

**READ**

Luke 1:1-4

Acts 1:1

Psalm 46

**REFLECT**

Luke, a Gentile doctor, wrote two books found in our New Testament, the third Gospel bearing his name, and Acts. We do not know how Luke came to faith. He was not an eye-witness to Jesus' ministry, but he did travel extensively with Paul. Throughout Paul's missionary travels we see the narrative in Acts drift in and out of first and third person, indicating Luke's association with him.

Two things seem to stand out to me about Luke's introduction. One is the fact that Luke spent considerable time looking into the character and story of Jesus. I have heard some describe the belief in Jesus being a "blind faith." While we can never completely reason ourselves to God, we can dig into scripture, verify historicity, and ask difficult questions of our faith. Our faith can stand on a strong foundation of the reality of Jesus and His words, deeds, ministry, and purpose. I feel challenged to continue to ask questions about my faith. Two great places within Glenkirk is our small group ministry where a few people gather to wrestle with the application of faith in their lives in a trusting environment. Another venue is Alpha, where people gather to struggle with questions like "Why did Jesus die?" or "Is prayer effective?"

The second thing that stands out to me about Luke is his desire to share what he discovered and experienced about Jesus with someone else. "I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach" (Acts 1:1). Clearly Luke went to extensive work to write two scrolls worth of material to one person, Theophilus. I know I often feel guilty for not sharing my

faith enough. It is one of those "shoulds" of faith that I struggle with, which only makes me feel lousy for my lack. I feel like I just can't measure up to Billy Graham. Sure, some of us are called to scatter seeds of faith among a great many people. But others are called to water deep the seeds of faith, spending years sharing our lives and the story of Jesus with just one person. Each of us can intentionally find at least one person in our lives with whom to slowly share Jesus. It may be a neighbor, a coworker, or even a family member. Is there someone you know who needs to hear this story? We do not know what motivated Luke to write to Theophilus, but we do know that Luke wanted to share the story of Jesus.

Somehow the balance of these two things is where each of us is called – to continue to build and strengthen our foundation of faith, while also providing others with the story of Jesus.

**RESPOND**

What question do you have about faith? With whom or with which group can you wrestle with this question? There may not be an easy answer, but even the process of discussing may shed light on Jesus. Whom has God placed on your heart to share the Gospel? Ask God to place someone on your heart, to provide opportunities to earn the right to be heard, or to share the story of Jesus.

**PRAY**

Thank You for Luke who took time to share what he had discovered about Jesus with one other person. Thank you that by Luke's efforts, I have been able to discover more of Jesus. God give me the courage to dig into my faith and seek You while also sharing the Good News I have found with another person. Amen

**READ**

Colossians 4:14

2 Timothy 4:11

Luke 4:31-44

Psalms 47

**REFLECT**

Luke was a doctor. How did this shape his message? Luke is written in what is considered some of the best Greek found in the New Testament. Because of his attention to details, this gospel is valued among historians. There are also traces of medical language and interest in medical matters as we see in our text today. In some of Jesus' very first acts, He is portrayed as a healer. This is quite a humble step from someone whose very job is to help others get healthy again.

For so many years I considered Jesus head of my religious life while the rest of my gifts, interests, and skills were the direct result of my hard work and under my own authority to be used and enjoyed by me. I enjoyed my successes and feared my failures. My only hope was for my talents to bring me monetary security. What I discovered over the process of many years in the midst of frustrations, set backs and even failures, was that Jesus longed to be in the center of all my life, not just my religious life. Jesus had a purpose to use my talents independent of success or failure. Jesus had engineered the world and even arranged my story within it to be used for His kingdom. I was humbled, excited and nervous to place my vocation of skills and time to be used by Him and trust that Jesus was far more effective at using them.

As Luke discovered and related to Jesus as the Great Physician, I think each of us can grow in our faith by placing our vocation under the authority of Jesus.

**RESPOND**

How do you see your occupation, your interests, or your skills in Jesus? What would Jesus do with your skill set? What would it look like to place Jesus Lord over all of your life, and not just your religious life? From whom can you learn or dialogue how to trust Jesus to be Lord over your entire life?

**PRAY**

Jesus, thank You for wanting all of me. Thanks that You are a far better leader of my talents than me. Help me to trust You with my skills, job, and talents. Let me look for ways that You speak to situations that are close to my heart. Amen

- A.D.

**READ**

Acts 2:38-39

Luke 15:20

Luke 18:13-14

Psalms 48

**REFLECT**

One of the main themes found in Luke is Jesus' attention to those "far off." This Greek word appears not only as an attention to physical distance but to the concern Jesus has for those in such a place: the lowly, humble, and hurting. Luke, more than any of the other Gospel writers, portrays Jesus with these people. Luke makes it clear that the Gospel is for those that many have ignored. The Acts passage specifically states that the promise of Jesus' forgiveness goes out to those who are "far off" from God's people in every way. Luke 15 paints the picture of God waiting and then running to those who are still "far off." Luke 18 reveals the person who is "far off" and pleading to God being justified before God. Luke helps us to see that Jesus' love, time, attention, and Gospel is for these people.

Mother Teresa commented, "Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat." Her response was to love one unwanted person at a time. While her example is powerful, I also find it overwhelming. I think my greatest struggle is to not close my eyes to those whom society has cast off. I find it uncomfortable to put myself in places of extreme poverty to learn the personal stories of those affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa or to visit with those who live across the border in the northern towns of Mexico. I find it

easy to insulate my self from the homeless – I can go so many days without really noticing the people themselves who live on our streets. This morning as I was walking with my family we passed by yet another homeless person. A woman got out of her car, bringing a little left over food, and set it down next the person on the bench. She didn't engage in any conversation. She simply gave what she had. I was crushed by the number of times I had carried food past this person. And Luke makes it clear that Jesus' Gospel is for those "far off."

**RESPOND**

How has Jesus reached you while you were "far off"? Express your gratitude to Him and to those whom He used.

Who around you is "far off"? What would it look like to take the gospel to them? Whose story do you need to learn to begin to understand what their life is about?

**PRAY**

Gracious and merciful God, You have come to this earth with Your Gospel to reach those near and far. Thank You that not one of us is too far to be reached by Your grace. Thank You that You loved me even while I was a sinner. Help me to have Your eyes and heart, to see those who are far off and to come close to them and to love them and bring Your Good News.

- A.D.

**READ**

Luke 9:51, 18:31-34, 19:28, 24:50-52

Philippians 2:5-11

Psalm 49

**REFLECT**

Looking at the whole of Luke, geography and more specifically elevation is one of those details of importance. Luke starts with the incarnation of Jesus, God coming down to this earth. It is a celebration that lasts three chapters. The next chapter we see Jesus begin His ministry in the desert, state His call from Isaiah in the temple, and begin to call disciples. Within just a few chapters, near the end of chapter nine Luke indicates that Jesus is starting the process of going up to Jerusalem. His entire ministry is about going up to His death in Jerusalem and up to heaven following His resurrection. For fifteen chapters, Jesus is a continual state of going up to Jerusalem, which is quite a trek up in elevation from all of the surrounding areas.

Luke as a doctor spends more than 75% of His gospel talking about the birth, death, and then resurrection of Jesus. Obviously as a doctor, Luke is well aware of importance of life stages, particularly life and death. But for Luke, Jesus' whole life seems to be about these three events. Luke frames all of Jesus' teaching and miracles in light of His purpose to come down to this earth, to go up to die, and to be resurrected.

This seems like a very basic concept for any of us in the church because we put so much emphasis on Christmas and Easter. In a way Luke, who spent so much time with Paul, is fleshing out what Paul wrote to the Philippians (2:5-11). God Himself humbles Himself to come down here and then in obedience begins the walk up to the cross so that God

would raise Him up so that Jesus Christ could be Lord and Savior. Jesus is Lord because He has been raised up. Jesus is Lord over us because He came down and was one of us. And Jesus is Savior because He died in obedience for you and for me. Jesus is both able and worthy to be our Lord.

**RESPOND**

What has Jesus saved you from? In what area of your life will you let Jesus be Lord? Because Jesus had a singular focus upon coming down to this earth, how does this affect how you hear His teaching? Think through, for example, the "lost" parables in Luke 15. How does Jesus see Himself in these parables? What is Jesus' attitude toward you or your neighbor?

**PRAY**

Thank You, Jesus, for humbling Yourself to come down to this earth for me. Thank You that You would be obedient to go up to the cross for me. Thank You that You have been glorified by God and have been raised up and now reign as my Lord and Savior. Amen.

- A.D.

**READ**

Philemon 1 & 24;

Psalm 50

**REFLECT**

I want to go back to the idea that Luke was Paul's traveling companion. Luke spent time as a missionary and particularly ministered to Paul when he was in prison. Some scholars think that the three years Paul was in the Caesarea prison is when Luke researched and wrote his gospel. Later, Luke traveled on to Rome with Paul and recorded his final days and death in the last chapters of Acts. Unlike the other gospel writers – Mark who traveled with Jesus, Matthew and John who were part of the 12 disciples – Luke conveyed his faith as he was taught and demonstrated by another Christian, primarily Paul. Luke was with Paul in the exciting moments of starting churches and in the low moments of suffering in prison.

As I read Luke, I pick up an intimacy of knowing Jesus personally and Luke's passion for reaching the lost and those far off. In the passages today, we clearly see Paul's intentional valuing of Luke's ministry partnership. It is this mentorship that results in the gospel billions of people have read and met Christ through. What I find so amazing is that it is Jesus Christ who is so clearly displayed, not just Paul or even Paul's faith. I think this is the critical component of discipleship – we allow people into our lives to experience our faith in both up and down seasons of our life – not so that they can get to know us, but that they can get to know our Jesus.

**RESPOND**

Who has disciplined you? How did they reveal Jesus to you? What were some of those moments where you took a big step of faith because of their actions or words? Who has God placed on your heart? How can you show more of Jesus and less of yourself? This is so much easier to talk about than do. What will you do this week to engage the person in a little of Jesus?

**PRAY**

Thank you God for the many people who have shared their faith with me. Thank you for Luke who has shared his faith with me and so many others. Help me to reveal more of you Jesus to one other friend.

- Adam Donner