



SERMON NOTES:

- Jesus is now on His way to Jerusalem to give His life for the sins of the world. The truths that He gives prepare His followers for Kingdom living in the face of persecution.
 - Truth is what disciples need to live holy outside the classroom and without the presence of the Master.
 - Luke 2 without 14-21 only provides fulfillment of the Law without faithful truth for Living
 - Truth prepares us to stand before Jesus
1. Truth: Jesus values what man overlooks (Luke 14-15)
 - a. Luke 14:3-4 The Sabbath is for healing, not for ceremony
 - b. Luke 14:11 Jesus exalts humility
 - c. Luke 15:7 Heaven rejoices over every salvation; the Gospel is paramount
 - d. Luke 15:24
 2. Truth: Self-justification is Sinful (Luke 16)
 - a. Luke 16:10 Jesus sees the quality of the service, not the quantity
 - b. Luke 16:15 Religion seeks self-justification, only Jesus can justify
 - c. Luke 16:18 Jesus calls a covenant broken adultery; His definition rules
 3. Truth: The Kingdom of God is foreign to the pursuits of men (Luke 17-18)
 - a. Luke 17:3-4 Forgiveness trumps feelings; faith is the currency of following Jesus
 - b. Luke 18:42
 - c. Luke 17:18 Praise is an outward sign of inward conversion
 - d. Luke 17:33 The Kingdom must take precedence over earthly life
 - e. Luke 18:14 Humility leads to justification
 4. Truth: Jesus rewards those that follow Him (Luke 19)
 - a. Luke 19:10 Salvation results from seeking
 - b. Luke 19:17 “Well done” is the reward of the follower
 - c. Luke 19:47-48 Jesus’ words are strength for His followers; the only reward needed are His words
 5. Truth: Jesus is LORD of God’s Kingdom (Luke 20)
 - a. Luke 20:1 Jesus’ preaching confounds the wisdom of man; His message rules
 - b. Luke 20:16 Jesus was crucified on earth but will return in authority
 - c. Luke 20:44 King David recognized Jesus as LORD
 6. Truth: Destruction must precede the Redemption of Jesus (Luke 21)
 - a. Luke 21:9 Truth brings peace during tumults
 - b. Luke 21:17-19 Endurance in Jesus is LIFE
 - c. Luke 21:28 Redemption rides on the clouds of doom
- Conclusion: Luke 21:34-36
 - The Israelites were not expecting Jesus’ birth and were not prepared to receive Him. Jesus doesn’t want His followers to despair from false teachings while they await His return; therefore, He gave us these truths.
 - Stay awake, Praying for Strength, Prepare to Stand



GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Luke shares 23 of Jesus' parables, of which 18 are only found in Luke. The parables center around the humanity of Jesus and His teaching on living for the Kingdom of God in the body of flesh. The flesh is always at war with the Spirit. Jesus' altercations with the Pharisees is an outward battle that often occurs within the minds of each person. Read Luke 14:12-24; 16:1-17; 17:20-37. What are some of the ways that living for the Kingdom of God war against the ways of the flesh? What areas does Jesus focus on? What truths do you need to write out that will guide you through the temptations of living your way?
2. Read Luke 16:18 and Matthew 19:1-9. This teaching is tucked in between teaching on the Kingdom of God and the story of Lazarus. Why? How does how we treat marriage reflect our understanding and priority of the Kingdom of God versus our earthly happiness? Lazarus looked happy on earth but it led to his eternal torment. How tempting is it to pursue our fleshly satisfaction over our spiritual obedience? How can Carpe Diem (seize the day) be good? Be bad? Describe the differences between Lazarus and the rich man's earthly life compared to their eternal life.
3. Read Luke 15:11-32. Describe the story from the perspective of the prodigal, from the older brother, from the Father. Have you ever played the part of the prodigal? The elder brother? The Father? Why does Jesus tell this story as part of the Lost series: Lost sheep, lost coin, lost son? How diligently do you seek those that are lost? What value does a person have to have before you seek for them? Before you rejoice over them? Share with someone your testimony of being lost and then being found.
4. Read Luke 18:1-8. How does faith relate to prayer? Is it wrong to consistently seek God's favor? How does it compare to Luke 18:9-14? How does persistence equate to humility? How is that similar to the actions of a child (Luke 18:15-17)? Then Jesus wraps these truths up into the illustration of the rich young ruler. How does this ruler demonstrate these truths? How dependent is he on God versus confident in himself?
5. Read Luke 19:28-40. How does this scene demonstrate an earthly example of the heavenly kingdom? What are some similarities to Luke 2, Jesus' birth? How does verses 41-44 reveal the heart of Jesus and how His heart does not force His will on the actions of humanity? Relate John 3:16-17 to this passage.
6. Read Luke 21. It would be easier, maybe even more uplifting, to tell the people that everything is going to be better, but Jesus gives truth about the troubles that are to come. They had no idea how bad it was going to get during the crucifixion; nor in the destruction of the temple by Titus in AD70; nor in the wars to present day; nor in the days of Revelation. Jesus always calls His people to seek refuge in Him, but we often don't. Truth about the destructions show our Shepherd knows the way. Read Psalm 23 and explain how it relates to this passage. What is the value of Jesus' words? How do His words impact you each day?