

# Mornings: Luke 11-19

## *William Taylor*

William has been working at St Helen's since 1995, succeeding Dick Lucas as rector in 1998.

After being converted and serving in the Army, William became a full-time Bible teacher, first in Bromley and now at St. Helen's. William is married to Janet and they have three children.

William will be teaching us from the middle section of Luke's Gospel - taking up where he left off at the summer school two years ago. He says, *"With his two-volume work (Luke's Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles) Luke is responsible for writing 25% of the New Testament - more than any other author. The aim of his work is both to defend and to define the Gospel for us so that we have confidence to declare it to the ends of the earth. To spend a week in the second major section of Luke's work will be a great privilege and there could be few better ways of being equipped for Gospel ministry together in the City and beyond."*

## **Luke's Gospel: An Overview**

### **A Saviour Who is Christ, the Lord**

#### **Introduction**

1:1 – 4 The Saviour's *Testimony* ... *'certainty concerning the things you have been taught'*

#### **Part One**

- 1) 1:5 – 4:13 The Saviour's C.V
- 2) 4:14 – 6:49 The Saviour's Manifesto
- 3) 7:1 – 8:56 How Great a Salvation
- 4) 9:1 – 50 The Saviour's Summons

#### **Part Two**

- 5) 9:51 – 10:37 The Saviour's Kingdom – its announcement ... *'shall we call down fire?'*
- 6) 10:38 – 13:21 The Saviour's Kingdom – its growth ... *'do you not care?'*
- 7) 13:22 – 17:10 The Saviour's People - their number ... *'will those who are saved be few?'*
- 8) 17:11 – 19:27 The Saviour's Kingdom – its timing ... *'when the Kingdom of God would come'*

#### **Conclusion**

19:28 – 24:53 The Saviour's Salvation

**The Saviour's Kingdom – its growth I: *do you not care?***

**Luke 10:38 – 11:13 & 13:18 - 21**

**Introduction**

Certainty: content, credibility (historical, theological, socio-political), communication

9:51 ... 10:38 ... 13:22 ... 17:19 ... 19:28 ...

True discipleship and the growth of His Kingdom

**1. True discipleship and the One Thing Necessary 10:38 - 42**

**2. True discipleship and Persistent Prayer 11:1 - 13**

a) the person

b) the priorities

c) persistence

d) expectation

**Conclusion**

### **For Personal Reflection**

10:38 – 42

What makes you sympathise with Martha?

What has Martha failed to grasp? (look very carefully at the different ways Martha is described)

Why has Mary chosen what is right?

Why what Martha says to Jesus really so shocking?

11:1 – 13

How does Jesus' teaching on prayer challenge our practise in the following areas:

- To whom we pray?
- For what we pray?
- How we pray?
- What we expect?

Luke wants us to have certainty. What does all of this tell us about where such certainty will come from?

### **For Group Discussion**

What needs to change in our thinking and our practise if we are to act upon the lessons of Mary and Martha? Be very practical.

What needs to change in our thinking and our practise if we are to act on Jesus' teaching about prayer? Be very practical.

What do we need to remember if the above is to be a joy, rather than a duty (ie, not just another plate to spin)? Take these lessons from the passage as far as you possibly can.

Some people appear to be so certain in their convictions about Jesus and the Gospel. What does this study tell us about where these convictions come from?

## The Saviour's Kingdom – its growth II ... *do you not care?*

### Luke 12:1 - 53

#### Introduction

10:38 – 11:13 Growth and discipleship

11:14 – 53 The logic of growth (and illogic of rejection)

12:1 – 53 Discipleship and anxiety

12:54 – 13:17 The logic of growth (and guilt of rejection)

13:18 – 21 Growth and discipleship

#### 1. The Logic of Growth (and illogic of rejection)

#### 2. Obstacles to growth 12:1 – 53

The context of growth

a) Fear of man: 4 - 12

b) Life's necessities: 13 – 34

c) Sleep: 35 – 48

The context of growth

#### Conclusion

**For Personal Reflection** (make sure you allow significant time for the final exercise)

Which of the areas (fear of man, the necessities of life, sleep) are you most conscious of as obstacles to your own confident discipleship?

Pick one and be specific and detailed about the anxiety/fear/obstacle. Write them down!

In what context are you aware of it?

What makes it such an obstacle?

How does Jesus' teaching in the relevant verses address the particular obstacles you have identified? Be specific about how Jesus' teaching addresses the particular concerns. Write it down!

Now use the significant time you have allowed to pray through the teaching of Jesus and how it addresses the issues you have raised. Ask Him to lodge His truth in your heart and life.

**For Group Discussion**

Verse 4 - 12

Fear of man is one of the great obstacles: why do we fear our colleagues/bosses etc?

What does Jesus say to kill off our fears?

Verse 13 – 34

Anxieties about life's necessities are another great obstacle: what does Jesus suggest is the reason that we get so anxious?

How does His teaching address and kill off our anxieties?

Verse 35 – 48

What causes us to 'take our eye of the ball'?

How does Jesus' teaching address our dopiness?

**The Saviour's People – their number I: *will those who are saved be few?***

**Luke 13:22 – 14:35**

**Introduction**

The context (13:22 – 35)

The stakes

The Pharisees

**1) The Party that Rocked the Religious**

a) Ugly Hypocrisy: 1 – 6

b) Self-promoting piety: 7 – 11

c) Self-serving hospitality: 12 – 14

d) Lame excuses: 15 – 24

**2) The Challenge that Confronts the Crowd**

a) discipleship and the cross: 25 – 27

b) discipleship and the cost: 28 – 33

c) discipleship and the distance: 34 – 35

**Conclusion**

### **For Personal Reflection**

13:22 – 30

What do 13:22 – 30 teach us about heaven and hell?

What does Jesus expect us to do in the light of this?

14:1 – 24

What do you find most challenging/encouraging about Jesus' analysis of the Pharisees' religion?

How does this give you certainty about the Christian faith?

What do you find most encouraging about Jesus' offer in verse 11, verse 14, verse 21 – 24?

14:25 – 35

Jesus' challenge to the crowd is binary (verse 27, 33). Why does this have to be so?

What are we to do in the light of this?

### **For Group Discussion**

14:1 - 24

Summarise Jesus' exposure of the Pharisees

- In verse 1 – 6
- In verse 7 – 11
- In verse 12 – 14
- In verse 15 – 24

How does Jesus' character and offer compare with the Pharisees' piety? (13:30; 14:11; 14:23 – 24)

What warnings do we take from this? What encouragements?

14:25 – 35

Summarise Jesus' challenge to the crowd

- In verse 25 – 27
- In verse 28 – 33
- In verse 34 – 35

What answer has Jesus provided for the question of the 'someone' in 13:23?

Luke's aim is our certainty. How does this passage achieve that?

**The Saviour's People - their number II ... will those who are saved be few?**

**Luke 15:11 – 16:13**

**Introduction**

Lost and found

**1) The Father, the Sinner and the Self-Righteous 15:11 - 32**

a) the prodigal and the sinner

b) The brother and the Pharisee

God

The Sinner

The Self Righteous

**2) The World, Resources and the Lost 16:1 – 13**

a) The World, its resources, and discipleship

b) Disciples, our resources and the lost

**Conclusion**

### **For Personal Reflection**

15:11 – 32

Spend the first 10 minutes re-reading the prodigal (leave plenty of time for chapter 16!)

What do the following teach us about God, our sin, and salvation:

His rebellion?

His demise?

His return?

His reception?

16:1 - 13

What does the dishonest manager teach you about how we should use our resources?

What is the specific application of 16:10 – 13 for you? (write it down)

### **For Group Reflection**

15:11 – 32

How has the parable of the prodigal refreshed you in your understanding of God and His character?

How has the teaching on the older brother helped or challenged you?

16:1 – 9

How does the world's use its resources (time, money, possessions etc) challenge our use of the same?

16:10 – 13

What does your use of possessions tell you about yourself?

## **The Saviour's Kingdom – its timing I ... *when would the Kingdom of God come?***

### **Luke 18:9 – 19:10**

#### **Introduction**

Future/Present Coming

17:11 – 18:8 The Kingdom and its future coming: *will He find faith?*

18:9 – 19:10 The Kingdom and its present coming: *then who can be saved?*

19:11 – 27 The Kingdom and its future coming: ... *immediately?*

**1. The Kingdom comes as the humble are exalted 18:9 – 14**

**2. The Kingdom comes as it is received like a child 18:15 – 17**

**3. The Kingdom comes as God makes the impossible possible 18:18 – 30**

**4. The Kingdom comes as Jesus opens blind eyes 18:31 – 43**

**5. The Kingdom comes as Jesus seeks and saves the lost 19:1 – 10**

#### **Conclusion**

### **For Personal Reflection**

In this passage the disciples (and others) get so many things wrong:

What have they failed to grasp in 18:9 – 17?

What can't they see in 18:18 – 30?

How does what they can't understand and what is hidden from them (verse 34) make sense of what they fail to grasp/see in verse 9 – 30?

From 18:35 – 19:10, how will the disciples be enabled to see?

What have you learned from these verses about how the Kingdom of Jesus comes, today?

How does this help you to be more certain about Jesus' Kingdom yourself?

How does this help you to be more confident in serving Jesus in His work of seeking and saving the lost?

### **For Group Discussion**

Summarise the different thing that the disciples (and others) get wrong because they can't understand/see/grasp them?

How does this help to explain why Jesus' Kingdom today is so hard to 'see'?

What is 'hidden from them' and why is it important that it is hidden? (see 10:21 – 22)

How does understanding come about? (18:35 – 19:10)

If Jesus' mission is to 'seek and save the lost', how does what we have learned help us to be confident in serving Him?

**The Saviour's Kingdom – its timing II ... *when the Kingdom of God would come?***

**Luke 17:11 – 18:8 and 19:11 – 27**

**Introduction**

**1) The Day: *will he find faith?***

a) Unmistakeable

b) Cataclysmic

c) Decisive/divisive

d) Will he find faith?

**2) The Delay**

Two certainties

One priority

**For Personal Reflection**

17:18 – 18:8 The Day

What does Jesus teach about the nature of His return?

How should what Jesus says about that Day impact what we treasure and how we live today?

What (from the text) will prevent us from doing these things?

19:11 – 27

What will it mean for you to 'engage in business' until He comes (verse 13)? Be specific, talk and pray about concrete plans and decisions for the next 12 months...and look forward over the next five years...

**For Group Discussion**

Use the time to share your answers to the final question from today's personal reflection.

Consider what (from your answers to 17:111 – 18:8) will de-rail your plans and decisions.

Pray for one another