

## The Story Church - 12.4.22

# A Physician and the Facts: *Luke's Pursuit of the Truth*

Part 1, Volume 1: *How Can It Be?*

**SERIES INTRO:** He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: ***Can Christianity be trusted?***

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** If someone asked you, ***“What makes you so SURE about Jesus and Christianity?”*** what would you say?

**READ: Luke 1:1-4** - Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

How would you describe Luke's purpose for writing this book?

How does Luke's use of the word "certainty" to describe Christian faith sit with you? How "certain" are you about Christianity's truth-claims, and why?

### HOW CAN WE BE CERTAIN...about LUKE?

**READ: Colossians 3:7-14** - Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

**READ: 2 Timothy 4:9-13 - Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.**

What insights do these passages offer about Luke?

For Christians, what role do facts and historical truth play in our certainty about Jesus?

What other factors may contribute to our certainty about Christianity's Truth claims?

### December 2022 Reading Plan

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## The Story Church - 12.11.22

### A Physician and the Facts: Luke's Pursuit of the Truth

Volume 1: *How Can It Be?*

Part Two: *When God Makes You Wait*

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**SERIES INTRO:** He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: ***Can Christianity be trusted?***

His name was Luke, and after years of researching the extraordinary claims being made by a small, highly motivated sect called *The Way*, he became an unlikely disciple of Jesus. How could a reasonable researcher come to believe that a 1st Century Jewish rabbi who was executed by the Romans is the living Son of God? We'll explore this question and more at The Story Church throughout this 22-week series as we follow Luke's logic from the Christmas manger to Easter's empty tomb.

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** Think of a time when you asked God for something, and it just... didn't...happen, or it took way longer than you felt like it should have. How did that time you spent waiting on God affect your faith in Him? What did you learn during that season?

The last books of the Old Testament were written around 400 years before the birth of Jesus. What were the people of Israel waiting for throughout those four centuries?

**READ:** Malachi 4:5-6 - "See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."

**READ:** Luke 1:5-17 - In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

What (or who) is the connection between these two passages that were separated by over four centuries?

What is the relationship between the O.T. prophet Elijah and John the Baptist? (Check out Matthew 11:11 for an important reference!)

Who were Zechariah and Elizabeth? What had they been waiting for, and why was it such a struggle?

Let's think about 3 things the Bible says about God and *waiting*:

1. GOD MAKES \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Notes:
2. GOD MAKES \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Notes:
3. AT \_\_\_\_\_, GOD \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Notes:

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The Story Church - 12.18.22

## A Physician and the Facts: Luke's Pursuit of the Truth

Volume 1: *How Can It Be?*

Part Three: *Why Does Mary's Virginity Matter?*

**SERIES INTRO:** He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: ***Can Christianity be trusted?***

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** **Have you ever felt called by God - or simply compelled by your conscience - to do something extraordinary that would make a difference in the world, only to have that feeling stifled by the belief that you're underqualified or ill-equipped to do what needs to be done? Reflect on this question for a few minutes, and write down your thoughts here:**

**What do we know about Mary's background and life *before* she became the mother of Jesus?**

**READ:** Luke 1:26-38 - In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth, your relative, is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

**How did Mary's age and marital/sexual status make her an unlikely candidate to conceive, carry, and deliver the most important child in human history?**

**What stands out to you about Mary's conversation with the angel, and why?**

**Many people - including many Christians and former Christians - struggle with the notion of the Virgin Birth. Why is it hard for folks to accept the idea of Jesus being born of a virgin?**

Even though Mary was clearly more than a virgin, her virginity is the one characteristic that she's known to this day. Why is that, and how and when did Church teachings like "The Perpetual Virginity of Mary" and "The Immaculate Conception" develop?

As misguided as some of the Church's teachings about Mary have been throughout the years, her status as a virgin in Luke 1 is a critically important detail in the story of Jesus' life. Let's explore what Mary's virginity does mean, and what it *doesn't* mean.

*What Mary's Virginity Means*

*What It Doesn't Mean*

How does Mary's story of radical obedience to the will of God inspire you to live differently today?

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## NO STUDY GUIDES FOR WEEK 4 & 5 - HOLIDAY BREAK

### The Story Church - 1.8.23

## A Physician and the Facts: Luke's Pursuit of the Truth

Volume 2: *His Name Is Jesus*

Part Three: *Why Was Jesus Baptized?*

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**SERIES INTRO:** He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: ***Can Christianity be trusted?***

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** Are you baptized? If so, what does your baptism mean to you? If not, why have you chosen not to be baptized?

**READ: Luke 3:2-3, 7-8, 21-23** "...the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan (River), preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins... John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance...' When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.' Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry.

**What role does repentance play within the Christian worldview? Why is it essential?**

**Do you agree with the claim that everyone, regardless of their religion or lack thereof, believes in sin? Why or why not?**

**How would you compare Christianity's "solution" to the problem of sin with the solutions offered by other religions and worldviews?**

**If sin is primarily about repentance, and if Jesus was sinless, then why was Jesus baptized?**  
(see: *Matthew 3:14-15*)

**READ: 2 Corinthians 5:21** "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

How did the baptism and subsequent crucifixion of Jesus change everything in regard to our sin? What difference does it make?

How did each member of the Trinity show up at Jesus' baptism, and what might this teach us about the unique roles of the Father, Son, and Spirit in our lives today?

Why is belief in (or relationship with) just one or two Persons of the Trinity incomplete? In other words, how might we characterize "belief" in God and/or the Spirit without belief in the Son? Or what is someone missing when they acknowledge God the Father and the Son but deny or ignore the Spirit?

How would you describe your relationship with God the Father?

...with Jesus Christ, the Son?

...with the Holy Spirit?

Your \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_  
precedes your \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_.

What do you make of the above fill-in-the-blank statement? What changes or adjustments can you make this week to open your heart to the Spirit of God?

### This Week's Daily Reading Plan\*

- 1/9 - Luke 4:31-37
- 1/10 - Luke 4:38-41
- 1/11 - Luke 4:42-44
- 1/12 - Luke 5:1-11
- 1/13 - Luke 5:12-16

\* Find the full January Reading Plan at [thestory.church/resources](http://thestory.church/resources)





## The Story Church - 1.15.23

### A Physician and the Facts: Luke's Pursuit of the Truth

Volume 3: *Son of God, Son of Man*

Part One: *Jesus and the Devil*

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** Everyone is tempted by something, so let's cut to the chase. Write down two or three of your most persistent temptations.

**Luke 4:1-2** Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.

What does the Bible say about the devil?

Why do you think Jesus spoke so often about the devil?

Do you believe in the devil as a nefarious, spiritual being who seeks your ruin? Why or why not?

**Luke 4:2-4** He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

**First, the Enemy will test your \_\_\_\_\_.**

In what ways have you experienced the temptations of the flesh? How did you handle them?

How can followers of Jesus fight this kind of temptation? (see *Ephesians 4:27* & *2 Timothy 1:7*)

**Luke 4:5-8** The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours."

**Next, the Enemy will test your \_\_\_\_\_.**

How has the Enemy tested your loyalty to God? How have you handled this kind of temptation?

How can followers of Jesus fight back against this temptation? (See James 4:7)

**Luke 4:9-13** The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

***Then, the Enemy will test your \_\_\_\_\_.***

How has the Enemy tested your core convictions? How have you handled this sort of test?

How can followers of Jesus fight back against this brand of spiritual assault? (See 1 Peter 5:8)

Two more questions to consider:

How can sinfulness in small, ordinary things lead to sinfulness in big, more important things?  
And how can faithfulness in the small things lead to faithfulness in greater things?

**This Week’s Daily Reading Plan\***

- 1/16 - Luke 5:17-20
- 1/17 - Luke 5:21-26
- 1/18 - Luke 5:27-32
- 1/19 - Luke 5:33-35
- 1/20 - Luke 5:36-39

\* Find the full January Reading Plan at [thestory.church/resources](http://thestory.church/resources)



## The Story Church - 1.22.23

### A Physician and the Facts: Luke's Pursuit of the Truth

Volume 3: *Son of God, Son of Man*

Part Two: *Jesus and Forgiveness*

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** What would you say is the most important and urgent need in our world today? What do you think Jesus would say?

**17 One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. 18 Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. 19 When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. 20 When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."**

#### Luke 5:17-20

In verse 20, Jesus saw *their faith*. Why is that significant? What did the friend's faith have to do with their friend's sins? How can your faith affect your family, friends, and sphere of influence by bringing them closer to Jesus?

In light of this passage and according to Jesus' words, what is the man's most urgent need in his life? Why would this be shocking to the man, his friends, and the crowd?

**21 The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"**

**22 Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? 23 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 24 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." 25 Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.**

**26 Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, “We have seen remarkable things today.”**

**Luke 5:21-26**

Which is easier: to fix something or forgive someone? Why?

What are 5 things forgiveness is not?

1. Forgiveness is not \_\_\_\_\_
2. Forgiveness is not \_\_\_\_\_
3. Forgiveness is not \_\_\_\_\_
4. Forgiveness is not \_\_\_\_\_
5. Forgiveness is not \_\_\_\_\_

What is forgiveness?

Why is forgiveness so important in order to understand the gospel of Jesus?

**PRAYER:** How are you struggling with forgiveness today? Ask God for the strength to receive forgiveness from Him and to forgive yourself and others.

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## The Story Church - 1.29.23

### A Physician and the Facts: Luke's Pursuit of the Truth

Volume 3: Son of God, Son of Man

Part Three: A Warning to Rich Christians

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**SERIES INTRO:** He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: **Can Christianity be trusted?**

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** *What do you think is your biggest spiritual "blind spot"? In other words, what topic, temptation, circumstance, etc., tends to knock you off the godly path you're trying to walk?*

Today, we'll mine one of Jesus' most provocative and difficult teachings - especially for those of us who are relatively wealthy, well-fed, and comfortable. In this passage, Jesus gave us the good news, and the bad news. Let's start with the good news:

**Luke 6:17-23** He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.

Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets."

**Why is it important to note that Jesus said "YOU who are poor...YOU who hunger now...etc.," (as opposed to "Blessed are THE poor...Blessed are THOSE who hunger...etc.")? Who, exactly, did Jesus declare as "blessed"?**

**How could things like poverty, hunger, sadness, and persecution be considered as blessings?**

**Have you ever experienced hardship or discomfort as a blessing from God?**

Now, let's get to the "bad news" in this teaching from Jesus:

**Luke 6:24-26** "But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort.

Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

**The 4 areas of life that JESUS warned us about in this passage:**

<p><b>1.) _____</b></p> <p>Why did he warn us about this? (Jonah 2:8, 1 Tim. 6:10)</p> <p>To avoid this trap, we _____! (Matt 16:26)</p> <p>How has this area of your life been a struggle, and how would your life change if you chose to forfeit your affluence in favor of Christ and his kingdom?</p>	<p><b>2) _____</b></p> <p>Why did he warn us about this? (Galatians 5:16-26)</p> <p>To avoid this trap, we _____! (Matt. 16:24)</p> <p>How has this area of your life been a struggle in your faith journey, and how might regular fasting change the trajectory you're on?</p>
<p><b>3.) _____</b></p> <p>Why did he warn us about this? (Matt. 11:16-17, Rev. 3:15-16)</p> <p>To avoid this trap, we _____! (Rom. 12:15)</p> <p>How has this modern life jaded you or caused you to be indifferent, making compassion more difficult to come by? What changes do you need to make to soften your heart so you can begin to <i>feel</i> again?</p>	<p><b>4.) _____</b></p> <p>Why did he warn us about this? (Matt. 6:1 &amp; 23:27)</p> <p>To avoid this trap, we _____! (James 4:4)</p> <p>How do your convictions as a Christian create noticeable dividing lines between you and "the world"? If you struggle to come up with anything, what might that mean?</p>

**This week's Daily Reading Plan:**

**1/30 - Luke 6:43-35**

**1/31 - Luke 6:46-49**

**2/1 - Luke 7:1-17**

**2/2 - Luke 7:18-35**

**2/3 - Luke 7:36-50**

\* Find the full January Reading Plan at [thestory.church/resources](http://thestory.church/resources)



## The Story Church - 2.5.23

### A Physician and the Facts: Luke's Pursuit of the Truth

Volume 3: *Son of God, Son of Man*

Part Four: *Unmet Expectations*

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**SERIES INTRO:** He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: **Can Christianity be trusted?**

His name was Luke, and after years of researching the extraordinary claims being made by a small, highly motivated sect called *The Way*, he became an unlikely disciple of Jesus. How could a reasonable researcher come to believe that a 1st Century Jewish rabbi who was executed by the Romans is the living Son of God? We'll explore this question and more at The Story Church throughout this 22-week series as we follow Luke's logic from the Christmas manger to Easter's empty tomb.

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** Have you ever had unmet expectations in your relationship with God? What are they specifically and how have you addressed them?

In the passage today, we will see three things:

1. John's \_\_\_\_\_
2. Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_
3. Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_

#### John's Question

**John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'"**

**Luke 7:18-20**

Does John the Baptist's question surprise you? Why do you think he asked it?

What does John the Baptist's question to Jesus teach us?

1. Doubt is not a \_\_\_\_\_
2. Take your doubts to \_\_\_\_\_

### Jesus' Response

**At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.**

**Luke 7:21-22**

How is Jesus' answer both a Yes and No?

Has God ever answered one of your prayer requests with a no? How did you respond?

What makes Jesus' grief over John the Baptist's death so interesting? What does it say about our own suffering?

### Jesus' Challenge

**Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.**

**Luke 7:23**

How is this verse a challenge to you? Why is the gospel of Jesus offensive to many?

How should we deal with our unmet expectations ?

\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Reflection Questions:**

What questions do you have about God? When's the last time you brought them to Him?

How does Jesus offend you?

How can you Ask, Listen, and Accept this week?

*\* Find the full January Reading Plan at [thestory.church/resources](http://thestory.church/resources)*



## The Story Church - 2.12.23

### A Physician and the Facts: *Luke's Pursuit of the Truth*

Part 11 of 22: **4 Ways We Come to Jesus**

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** We typically use the phrase "a come-to-Jesus meeting" to refer to a scary or intimidating encounter with an authority figure, but this idiom is rooted in the historically Christian idea that, one day, everyone will stand face-to-face with Jesus. So, as a way of kick-starting your personal reflection and/or your group's discussion, ***what is the first thing you think you'll say or do when your "come-to-Jesus meeting" happens in the hereafter?***

Today's reading (Luke 8:40-56) picks up just as Jesus was sailing across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum after preaching in Samaria. **Think for a moment about the kind of man that Jesus really was. How do you think people today mischaracterize Jesus in terms of his personality and identity?**

**Luke 8:40-42** Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him.

**Who was Jairus, and what brought him to Jesus that day?**

**What kinds of circumstances cause people to *desperately* come to Jesus, and what are they typically searching for?**

**Luke 8:43-44** And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

**What do we know about this woman? What brought her to Jesus that day?**

**What circumstances lead people to feel *disappointed* when they come to Jesus? What are they usually hoping for?**

**Luke 8:45-48** "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me." Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In

the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

**Why was the woman trembling?**

**What was the significance of Jesus calling her his "daughter"?**

**Luke 8:49-56** While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," he said. "Don't bother the teacher anymore." Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed." When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother. Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep." They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

**Who were those wailing and mourning people at Jairus' house, and why did they laugh?**

**What circumstances lead people to be disrespectful or arrogant when they come to Jesus?**

**The disciples were also present with Jesus throughout today's reading. How had they come to Jesus (see Luke 5:1-11), and what roles did they play in today's reading from Luke 8:40-56?**

**What circumstances lead people to become disciples who follow Jesus?**

**So, in this story we have 4 people/groups: the DESPERATE father, the DISAPPOINTED woman, the DISRESPECTFUL cynics, and the DISCIPLES of Jesus. Which person or group do you find the most relatable, and why?**

**If you don't yet consider yourself to be a disciple of Jesus, what circumstances would need to change in order for you to become one?**

**What does today's reading reveal to you about the heart and personality of Jesus Christ?**

### **This week's Daily Reading Plan:**

**Monday 2/13 - Luke 9:18-36**

**Tuesday 2/14 - Luke 9:37-50**

**Wednesday 2/15 - Luke 9:51-62**

**2/16 - Luke 10:1-24**

**2/17 - Luke 10:25-42**

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## The Story Church - 2.19.23

### A Physician and the Facts: *Luke's Pursuit of the Truth*

Part 12 of 22: *Experiencing God*

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** Why do you think experiencing God is so important and significant to the Christian faith?

Have you ever had a “mountain top” experience with God? If not, try to think of a “molehill” or ordinary experience in which you encountered God? Be as specific as possible.

**READ Luke 9:28-29**

**28** About eight days after Jesus said this he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. **29** As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

What is the first step that precedes an experience with God?

What are some roadblocks you have in your prayer life?

How is prayer an entrance to worship?

**READ Luke 9:30-32**

**30** Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. **31** They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. **32** Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

How does an experience with God awaken us in worship?

What is the difference between half hearted worship and wholehearted worship? How is true worship truly transformational?

**READ** Luke 9:33-36

**33** As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)

**34** While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. **35** A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” **36** When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

What are the only two times that we hear the audible voice of God in the gospel of Luke? What’s the difference in the Father’s words from Jesus’ baptism to the transfiguration? Why is this significant for us?

What must we do before we descend from an experience with God? How does listening to God lead to obedience?

## PRAY - AWAKEN IN WORSHIP - LISTEN

If you committed to this rhythm, how would this change your life?

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## NO STUDY GUIDES FOR WEEK 13 - ASH WEDNESDAY

The Story Church - 2.26.23

### A Physician and the Facts: *Luke's Pursuit of the Truth*

Part 14 of 22: *Why Bad Things Happen to Good People*

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**SERIES INTRO:** He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: ***Can Christianity be trusted?***

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** Why do bad things happen to good people? Reflect on the moments and situations in which you've asked yourself that question. What are some possible answers?

**Today's passage is from Luke 13. Let's start with verses 1-5:**

Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish." - Luke 13:1-5

**How did Jesus respond to the report from the people that Pontius Pilate had slaughtered a group of Galileans in or near the Temple? How might Jesus' response have been surprising or unexpected?**

**What happened when the Siloam tower fell? Why did Jesus bring up this tragedy while responding to Pilate's atrocities? What did these two tragedies have in common, and how were they different?**

**What point was Jesus making about the larger question of why bad things happen to good people? Also, from the Christian point of view, what's wrong with the notion that "bad things" happen to "good people"?**

**There is one phrase that Jesus repeats, verbatim, in this passage. What is it, and why is it important?**

**What is "the fruit of repentance," and where else is it mentioned in Luke's gospel?**

**To make sense of this passage, let's read on to the next passage from Luke, in which Jesus told a parable to illustrate his point:**

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

“‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’” - Luke 13:6-9

**Who did the owner of the vineyard represent?**

**Who did the caretaker of the vineyard represent?**

**Who did the unfruitful fig tree represent?**

**Why did the caretaker of the vineyard as the landowner for more time? What did he promise to do if the landowner would grant him one more year?**

**What’s wrong with a fig tree that doesn’t yield figs? Why would that justify the vineyard owner cutting it down?**

**Look at other passages in Scripture that deal with the topic of repentance, and make notes about what repentance and why it’s important.**

**2 Chronicles 7:14**

*Your notes:*

**Luke 3:1-9**

*Your notes:*

**Romans 2:4**

*Your notes:*

**2 Corinthians 7:10**

*Your notes:*

**2 Peter 3:9**

*Your notes:*

**What is holding you back from producing the fruit of repentance today?**

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## The Story Church - 3.5.23

### A Physician and the Facts: *Luke's Pursuit of the Truth*

Part 15 of 22: *What Is God Really Like?*

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** **Have you ever gotten lost? (This is a practical question, not a spiritual one) If so, how exactly did you get lost? What happened that led to your lostness, and how did you find your way back?**

In Luke 15, Jesus told three stories, or *parables*, that illustrate four of the most common ways that people get lost. Let's take a look at these stories, one at a time.

**Luke 15:1-7** Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

**What circumstances provoked Jesus to tell this story?**

**How did the sheep most likely get lost?**

**What stands out to you about the shepherd's behavior in this parable?**

**What does this parable teach us about how some people get lost, and how God feels about them?**

**Lk 15:8-10** "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

**How did the coin most likely get lost?**

**What stands out to you about the woman's behavior in this parable?**

**What does this parable teach us about how some people get lost, and how God feels toward them?**

**Lk. 15:11-24** Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So he got up and went to his father.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

**How did the younger son get lost?**

**What stands out to you about the father’s behavior in this parable?**

**What does this parable teach us about how some people get lost, and how God responds to them?**

**Lk. 15:25-32** “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

**How did the older son get lost?**

**What stands out to you about the father’s behavior in this part of the parable?**

**What does this part of the parable teach us about how some people get lost, and how God pursues them?**

*Your notes:*

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## The Story Church - 3.12.23

### A Physician and the Facts: Luke's Pursuit of the Truth

Part Sixteen: *Childlike Faith*

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**SERIES INTRO:** He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: ***Can Christianity be trusted?***

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** What memories, emotions, or thoughts come to mind when you think about your childhood?

**People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."**

**Luke 18:15-17**

During Jesus' time the youth mortality rate was \_\_\_% meaning every kid had a \_\_\_\_\_ chance of reaching adulthood. How do you think this reality affected the view of children in the 1st century?

Why do you think the disciples rebuked the parents for bringing their children to Jesus?

**A Childish faith \_\_\_\_\_ but a Child-like faith \_\_\_\_\_**

Who are the people that we *exclude* from Jesus, whether intentionally or by accident? How can we be more *inclusive*?

**"Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come. It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble. 3 So watch yourselves.**

**Luke 17:1-3**

**A Childish faith is \_\_\_\_\_ but a Child-like faith is \_\_\_\_\_**

In what ways does comparison creep into your faith? Who are the people you compare yourself to and why?

How do you try to earn God's love? Is it working?

**A childish faith makes \_\_\_\_\_ but a child-like faith \_\_\_\_\_**

What *assumptions* do you make about God or who He loves?

How does dependency, or *trust*, in God lead to delight?

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.... My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.”**  
**Proverbs 3:5-7**

**Reflection Questions:**

How am I like the disciples, trying to control or manage Jesus?

In what area of my life do I need to radically trust God?

When was the last time I enjoyed God's presence?

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## The Story Church - 3.12.23

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** Throughout the gospel of Luke, Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God more than any other topic. How would you describe the Kingdom of God? How is it different from earthly kingdoms?

You can \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ the kingdom of God.

*After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'" Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They replied, "The Lord needs it." They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!". Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" "I tell you", he replied, "if they keep quiet even the stones will cry out." Luke 19:28-40*

Read Zechariah 9:9. How was Jesus' triumphal entry the statement of a King? What would the crowds of people have expected Jesus to do as a king?

**Rejection can occur in two ways:**

\_\_\_\_\_ rejection & \_\_\_\_\_ rejection.

In Luke 19, we read about crowds praising Jesus and acknowledging His kingship. Read Luke 23:18-24. How does this passage help us understand the true motives of the crowd?

**Subtle rejection looks like being \_\_\_\_\_ but not \_\_\_\_\_.**

Read Philippians 3:17-19. Describe a time in your life when you lived under your own authority, or the authority of anything besides Jesus. What was the result?

*As he [Jesus] approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it. And said, "If you, even you had only known on this day what would bring you peace - but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you." - Luke 19:41-44*

How does Jesus respond to us when we reject God's kingdom?

Read Romans 5:10. How is Jesus distinct from every other king? Why is He worthy of everything?

**Acceptance is \_\_\_\_\_.**

Read Philippians 3:20-21. What part(s) of your life do you feel convicted to surrender to Jesus? What does it practically look like to surrender and live as a citizen of the Kingdom?

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## The Story Church - 3.26.23

### A Physician and the Facts: *Luke's Pursuit of the Truth*

Part 18 of 22: *The End Times According to Jesus*

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** Do you have a mostly optimistic or mostly pessimistic view about the future of the world, and why?

Why do you think many people think of "End Times" theology as "fringe" and "cringe"?

Christians aren't the only ones who insist that "the end is near". Where else in our culture have you seen and heard people warning of the *Apocalypse*?

What have Christians always believed about the End Times?

**Luke 21:5-7** Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, "As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down." "Teacher," they asked, "when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?"

What, specifically, did the disciples want to know about *the End Times*?

**Luke 21:8** He replied: "Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them.

Instead of responding directly to the disciples' question about *WHEN* the end would come, Jesus gave them three directives to prepare them for what was coming:

1. **DO NOT BE** \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Do not be deceived by false \_\_\_\_\_  
(see *Matthew 24:36*)
  - b. Do not be deceived by false \_\_\_\_\_  
(see *Colossians 2:8*)
  - c. Do not be deceived by false \_\_\_\_\_  
(See *Colossians 3:1-4*)

d. Follow no one but \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 21:9-11** When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.” Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.”

**2. DO NOT BE \_\_\_\_\_**

a. Fear no one but \_\_\_\_\_  
(See *Matthew 10:28*)

**What are some things, people, and/or events that people tend to be afraid of today?**

**What does Jesus say about such things?** (See Luke 21:9)

**Luke 21:12-19** “But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. And so you will bear testimony to me. But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. Everyone will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will perish. Stand firm, and you will win life.”

**3. DO NOT BE \_\_\_\_\_**

a. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!

**How can followers of Jesus stand firm and win life in a world like ours?**

Later in Luke 21, Jesus offered more practical advice for Christians living in the last days:

**Luke 21:34-36** “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

Why is it important for Christians to be careful, sober, and prayerful?

Your notes:

\* Find the full March Reading Plan at [thestory.church/resources](http://thestory.church/resources)



## The Story Church - 4.2.23

### A Physician and the Facts: *Luke's Pursuit of the Truth*

Part 19 of 22: *The Last Supper*

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**SERIES INTRO:** He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: ***Can Christianity be trusted?***

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** **What does Communion mean to you?** (*Feel free to be brutally honest if you find it awkward or if you struggle to find meaning in it.*)

**Why is it important for our worship services to be more than just music and preaching?**

**On what ancient Hebrew festival is Holy Communion based? Write everything you know about that Hebrew observance here (along with any new information you pick up in today's message).**

**Read Exodus 12:1-30. What exactly did the Lord instruct the Israelites to do and why?**

**How did the Jewish observance of Passover evolve prior to the life and times of Jesus Christ? What did the bread and wine symbolize according to Hebrew tradition?**

**Read Luke 22:7-13** Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there." They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the

cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!” They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

**Why did Jesus share this meal, in this way, with his disciples?**

**How did Jesus refine the symbolism of the unleavened bread?**

Before Jesus, it was the bread of our \_\_\_\_\_  
to remind us of our \_\_\_\_\_.  
But in Christ it became the bread of our \_\_\_\_\_  
to remind us of our \_\_\_\_\_.

**How did Jesus update the meaning of the Passover wine?** (See Luke 22:20 and Jeremiah 31:31)

**What did Communion mean to the first-generation Christians?** (See 1 Cor. 5:7 and 1 Cor. 11:17-34) **In what ways could you adjust the way you receive Communion to better reflect the early Church?**

**How, if at all, do you plan to approach the Lord’s table differently starting today? Why?**

Your notes:

### April 2023 Reading Plan

<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Week 2</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 4/3 - Luke 22:1-38	<input type="checkbox"/> 4/10 - Luke 24:1-8
<input type="checkbox"/> 4/4 - Luke 22:39-53	<input type="checkbox"/> 4/11 - Luke 24:9-12
<input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 - Luke 22:54-71	<input type="checkbox"/> 4/12 - Luke 24:13-35
<input type="checkbox"/> 4/6 - Luke 23:1-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 4/13 - Luke 24:36-49
<input type="checkbox"/> 4/7 - Luke 23:26-56	<input type="checkbox"/> 4/14 - Luke 24:50-53

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## The Story Church - 4.16.23

### A Physician and the Facts: *Luke's Pursuit of the Truth*

Part 22 of 22: ***Emmaus: But We Had Hoped...***

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**REFLECTION QUESTION:** How has this journey through Luke changed your perspective of Jesus, his mission in the world, and the Bible more broadly?

Today as we near the end of this series, we're taking a closer look at one of Luke's greatest gifts to the Church: the story of what happened on the Emmaus Road. Luke's Gospel is the only one of the four gospels to record these events. Given what we know about his background, as well as his approach to writing his gospel, ***why and how might Luke have included content that other gospel writers didn't?***

**Luke 24:13-27** Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

**Who were these two people, why had they been in Jerusalem?**

**Why were their faces downcast?**

**Who did they expect Jesus to be like, and what did they hope that he would do?**

**How did Jesus respond to what they said?**

**Luke 24:28-35** As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

**Why were these two disciples unable to recognize Jesus prior to verse 31?**

**What are some of the misunderstandings, partial understandings, or false expectations about Jesus that believers struggle with today?**

*“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...  
...the one and only Son, who came from the Father,  
**full of grace and truth.**”  
- John 1:14*

**Why might a partial understanding of Jesus be so dangerous?**

Only after Jesus explained to them everything the Scriptures said concerning him, and after he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them were they able to recognize him for who he is.

**What changed that allowed their eyes to be opened?**

**IF \_\_\_\_\_ DOESN'T \_\_\_\_\_,  
IT'S NOT \_\_\_\_\_ WHO NEEDS \_\_\_\_\_.**

**What role do Scripture and Holy Communion play in helping you see Jesus for who he really is?**

*Your Notes:*

*The* STORY  CHURCH

## The Story Church - 4.23.23

### A Physician and the Facts: *Luke's Pursuit of the Truth*

Part 23 of 22: **"Peace be with you..."**

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[Listen to Pastor Kale's Sermon HERE](#)

**REFLECTION QUESTION:** How would you define peace? Why is peace the #1 thing people say they're looking for?

**Luke 24:36-42** "While they were still talking about this (Jesus' resurrection), Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38 He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.

**How to have peace with God?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ with God

**How does this surprise you? How have you avoided wrestling with God?**

**Read Genesis 32:28-29. How does this give you permission to wrestle with God?**

2. \_\_\_\_\_ in God

**Read Psalm 46:10. How can you restfully sit in the presence of God and be filled? What is the thing that stirs your affections for Christ the most?**

**Luke 24:44-49** - 44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

3. \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ of God

**How can you fully rely on the promises of God?**

**Read Romans 5:1. How do we have peace with God?**

**What does it mean that "Peace is a person?"**

**What is the point and purpose of the gospel of Luke?**

*Your Notes:*