

With God there are no outsiders. Luke is a most vigorous champion of the outsider. An outsider himself, the only Gentile in an all-Jewish cast of New Testament writers, he shows how Jesus includes those who typically were treated as outsiders by the religious establishment of the day: women, common laborers (shepherders), the racially different (Samaritans), the poor. He will not countenance religion as a club. As Luke tells the story, all of us who have found ourselves on the outside looking in on life with no hope of gaining entrance (and who of us hasn't felt it?) now find the doors wide open, found and welcomed by God in Jesus..

At the center of Luke's Gospel (Luke 9:51-19:44), there is a ten-chapter insertion that features stories and teachings between Jesus, his followers, and other men and women he meets along the way. The section is framed by references to leaving Galilee (9:51) and then arriving in Jerusalem (19:11, 28,41). Because of these framing references it is often designated the Travel Narrative. Most of the material in these ten chapters is unique to Luke.

The first nine chapters of Luke's Gospel tell the story of the Galilean ministry of Jesus, following the pattern set down by Matthew and Mark. The Galilean story lays the foundations for our lives in Christ. The final five chapters tell the story of the final week of Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem - Jesus rejected, crucified, and raised to new life - and also follow Matthew and Mark. The Jerusalem story consummates our lives in Christ: crucifixion, resurrection. What Jesus said and did in the early years in Galilee has continuities ties with what took place in that last week in Jerusalem. The transition between the two places is narrated as a journey through Samaria, the country that separated Galilee from Jerusalem.

Jesus is preparing them (us!) to live a crucifixion and resurrection life patiently and without out fanfare, obediently and without recognition. He prepares them in these Samaritan conversations to quietly and courageously do all this in continuity with the way Jesus did it and the way Jesus talked about it.

**Commentary on Luke from The Bible Project:**

- <https://thebibleproject.com/videos/luke-1-9/>
- <https://thebibleproject.com/videos/luke-10-24/>

**Commentary on Luke 9-19 from The Bible Project:**

- <https://thebibleproject.com/videos/luke-ch-9-19/>

**Commentary on Luke 13 from bible.org:**

- <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-63-what-we-should-learn-tragedies-luke-131-9>
- <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-64-religion-versus-reality-luke-1310-17>
- <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-65-why-you-want-be-jesus%E2%80%99-side-luke-1318-21>
- <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-66-narrow-door-luke-1322-30>
- <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-67-christ-would-they-would-not-luke-1331-35>

## **READ Luke 13**

(The following discussion questions are adapted from The Serendipity Bible)

### *Opening*

- What was the worst tragedy in your community last year?
- Are you more of a “the rules are meant to be broken” or a “play it by the book” type of person? Why? Give an example.
- What is your favorite story about someone with humble beginnings who greatly succeeds?
- What place do you identify with your spiritual roots?

### *Digging in — Discovering the Word*

- What is the danger of associating someone’s misfortune with sin?
- In verses 6-9, who does the tree represent: The owner? Farmer? Why the urgency?
- What does verse 11 tell you about Dr. Luke’s knowledge of medicine? Of spiritual phenomenon?
- How does Jesus expose the ruler’s hypocrisy?
- What does the contrast between the seed and tree teach about the power of God’s kingdom? What does yeast teach about it?
- According to Jesus, who will make it through the narrow door and who won’t (v.30)?
- If God loves people, why isn’t the door wider? Who are the ones outside? Why isn’t eating and drinking with Jesus enough?
- What do you think Jesus means by “evil-doers”? In the end, do you think only a few or many or all people will be saved? Why?
- What does Jesus reveal here (vv. 32-33) about his intentions? What does his response reveal about him?
- What strikes you about Jesus’ prophecy?

### *Connecting the Dots — Applying the Word*

- If you had “one more year” like the fig tree to turn your life around, what would you do?
- What fruit do you want to be producing by this time next year?
- What tension between caring for people and keeping religious rules do you experience?
- How do you reconcile this connection between physical and spiritual healing?
- How do you know whether you are inside or outside the kingdom? How can you be sure?
- What would it mean for each of us to gather under Jesus’ wings?