

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 17 from bible.org:

- <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-77-relational-sins-and-how-deal-them-luke-171-4>
- <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-78-more-faith-or-more-obedience-luke-175-10>
- <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-79-how-respond-god-s-blessings-luke-1711-19>
- <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-80-present-and-future-kingdom-luke-1720-37>

READ Luke 17

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

Opening

- As a child, what was a sure-fire way that your siblings or parents could get your goat?
- When it comes to thank you notes are you: Miss Manners? Sir Sometimes? Father Forgetful? Why?
- What are you looking forward to or waiting for right now?

Digging in — Discovering the Word

- What might be an example of Jesus' meaning in verse 1?
- How could you practice verses 3-4 without reinforcing someone's bad behavior?
- How might the disciples plea (v. 5) relate to Jesus' statement (vv.3-4)? What does Jesus' response (v. 6) really mean?
- What attitudes should Jesus' followers have in serving him (vv. 7-10)
- What is it like to be a leper? What would healing mean for them?
- As one of the nine, how would you rationalize not going back to Jesus to say thanks?
- What is significant about the one being a Samaritan?
- In answering the Pharisees' question, what does Jesus say about the kingdom- as to when, how, or where it is? Does he view the kingdom as an inward, spiritual reality within people? Or an outward, social manifestation among them? Or is he speaking of their failure to recognize who he is?
- What did Jesus mean by "one of the days of the Son of Man"?
- How will those days be like days of Noah and Lot? What is so bad about the lives people were living in verses 27-28? What is meant by the warning about Lot's wife (see Gen 19:17-26)?
- Verse 37 was a common proverb, implying that something will happen in its proper time. Why does Jesus say this?

Connecting the Dots — Applying the Word

- Which quality of discipleship do you have the most difficulty with? How might dealing with this affect the other qualities?
- How do you express your gratitude to Jesus?
- While you live "in the kingdom" waiting for "the Son of Man" to come, what do you see in this section about the way you ought to apply verses 32-33?
- Do you ever look back to your pre-Christ lifestyle? In what way?