

The Year of the Lord's Favour



OUT WITH THE OLD ... IN WITH THE NEW

LUKE 4-8 - STUDIES 1-5

- 1. Introduction*
- 2. Temptation*
- 3. Release*
- 4. Sinners*
- 5. Old & New*

ALL MANKIND WILL SEE GOD'S SALVATION



Before we think about Jesus' ministry and his message in Luke 4-8, it'll be helpful to reorient ourselves with the story so far ...

Read Luke 1-3.

List all the things we learn about Jesus ...

ALL MANKIND WILL SEE GOD'S SALVATION



List all the things we're still expecting Jesus to do ...

*Share one thing from the passages you've read that you want to pray about.
Pray together!*

Luke 4:1-13: Temptation!

START OFF.....

When do you find it hardest to resist temptation?

If it were possible, would you prefer not to be tempted at all? Why?

Read Luke 4:1-13

In chapter 4 verse 3, Satan's temptation starts with "If you are the son of God". *What was the last thing God the father said to Jesus in Luke's gospel and how do you think it helps us to understand this temptation here?*

Can you think of any ways Satan tries to get us to doubt God's word when he tempts us?

Deuteronomy:

In Jesus reply (v4) he is quoting from Deuteronomy chapter 3. **Read Deut 8:1-6**

Deuteronomy was written to the nation of Israel as they entered the promised land after wandering in the desert for 40 years. *What is the lesson they should have learned? (Deut 8:3,5)*

How should Israel have responded? (v6)

From what you know in the rest of the OT, did Israel respond in the proper way or not?

In the second two temptations, Luke 4:5-12, can you see any way in which the nation of Israel were tempted in a similar way to Jesus but failed? What, if anything might be the significance of this?

Psalm 91

In the third temptation Satan quotes from Psalm 91.

Read all of Psalm 91 and make a list of all the good things that Psalm 91 is promising to the person who trusts in the Lord...

Satan has picked Psalm 91 to tempt to Jesus. *How do you think Psalm 91 might be a temptation to Jesus to doubt that he is the son of God?*

Something to think about... *Why do you think Jesus would allow himself to be tempted?*

Hebrews

Read Hebrews 5:1-10

Why do we need a high priest, why can't we deal directly with God(v2)?

What did Jesus need to learn in order to be able to save us (v9)?

Before we are tempted, how does this passage help us to prepare for temptation?

When we are in the middle of temptation how does this passage help us?

If we fail in temptation how does this passage help us?

Knowing that Jesus became weak and went through temptation for you, what do you want to say to him?

Pray together.

Luke 4:14-44: Release!

Read Luke 4:14-21

What is it that Jesus says he has come to do? What will the day of the Lord's favour be like?

(You may want to think about how this fits with Luke 2:25-32 which we thought about when we looked at Isaiah 40).

Jesus stopped reading Isaiah mid-sentence! He is announcing that the day of the Lord's favour is now here (v21). But why did Jesus stop reading there. *What day is not yet here? (read the next bit of Isaiah 61 to find out).*

What will this other day be like? (Isaiah 63:3-4)

From what you know from the rest of the Bible, when do you think this day will this day come?

Read Luke 4:22-30.

What does Jesus say about his home town?

Does this bother you in any way? Why?/Why not? (You may want to think about how Luke 2:33-35 helps us understand this).

Now read 4:31-4:44.

How do we see Jesus releasing people? How are these people poor or prisoners or oppressed?

What do we learn about Jesus priorities? (v43)

Does this verse bother you in any way? Why? Why not?

To ponder: *Why do you think the demons recognise who Jesus is but his own town people don't?*

Release!

Read Luke 24:45-49. After Jesus died, the good news of release continues to be proclaimed. *What is it that people can now be released from?*

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-6:1

We are in the day of the Lord's favour, but not yet the day of his judgement. *In this time what is the message we must help proclaim?*

Is there someone you need to talk to or pray for after what we have looked at today?

Pray together.

Luke 5:1-32: Sinners!

In this section we have 4 scenes, or episodes. Each one tells us something about Jesus. Each one also tells us something about sin, or uncleanness - it seems to be a theme running through this chapter.

Read Luke 5:1-31 and fill in the following table:

Passage	What we learn about Jesus...	What we learn about sin / uncleanness
Luke 5:1-11		
Luke 5:12-16		
Luke 5:17-26		
Luke 5:27-32		

In what ways are you sick/sinful/weak or unclean and need to be saved by Jesus?

What wrong attitudes to Jesus do we see in Ch 5?

What right attitudes to we see to Jesus in Ch 5?

In what way is your attitude to Jesus right?

In what ways is your attitude to Jesus wrong?

Luke 5:33-6:16: Old & New

In this section Luke highlights the response to Jesus' call for sinners to repent. We'll see:

- 2 parables - that hint at the nature of Jesus' call & the 2 responses to it,
- 2 Sabbaths - illustrations of the Pharisees who prefer to stay with their 'old' but false religion, AND
- the beginnings of the NEW followers of Christ Jesus - who join Jesus in his task

read Luke 5:27-39

How is 'place' significant to the events in this passage?

(HINT: think about how the Pharisee's questions relate to where Jesus is & what he's doing)

The Pharisee's question is, 'If Jesus calls to repentance, how is it that those who have responded to his call spend their time partying rather than fasting?' In reply Jesus talks about a 'wedding feast' ... a time of joyful celebration ... followed by a time of sorrow (vv 34-35). *What do you think he means?*

Jesus' presence brings in a 'new' era of joyful celebration. He tells two parables (vv36-39) to explain how the new relates to the old?

What do you think the new & the old represent?

What would you say is the relationship between the new & the old?

After reading this section, what responses should we expect to see to Jesus' call?

In the next section Luke gives two illustrations of those who prefer to stay with their 'old' but false religion. The key question here is, 'Who interprets Scripture/God's will correctly?' ... in other words ... 'Is it better to stick with the 'old' of the Pharisees, or listen to the 'new' of Jesus?'

read Luke 6:1-11 & fill in the following table ...

Passage	How is time or place significant?	Is there a conflict? What is it?	What does the passage reveal about who best understands Scripture/God's will?
Luke 6:1-5			
Luke 6:6-11			

Reflect ... *So far, how would you summarise what the passage says about who Jesus is & what he came into the world to do?*

How did the Pharisees respond to Jesus?

read Exodus 19:1-6, 20:1-2 & Luke 6:12-26

In what ways are the passages similar?

What, if anything, do you think the significance of that might be?

From what you know of the rest of the New Testament, who has a place in God's NEW people? Who doesn't have a place in God's NEW people?

Reflect ... *How would you summarise what the passage says about who Jesus is & what he came into the world to do?*

In what ways do the NEW followers of Christ Jesus join him in his task? (HINT: see Luke 9:1-6)

Choose your own adventure ...

Pick a question ...

1. How have you responded to Jesus' call to repent? If you haven't repented, why not? What might you need to repent of?
2. How do you go at rejoicing? What things bring you joy? How can you encourage yourself/others to rejoice in Jesus?
3. In what ways do you resist God's word/will and think something like, 'The old is better' or perhaps, 'My way is better'?
4. Of the 'blessings' (6:20-23) which one encourages/excites you most? Why?
5. Of the 'woes' (6:24-26) which one challenges/frightens you most? Why?
6. What are some practical ways we can join Jesus in his task of calling sinners to repent and join the NEW people of God?