

The Year of the Lord's Favour



OUT WITH THE OLD ... IN WITH THE NEW

LUKE 4-8 - STUDIES 6-9

6. the OBEДИENT followers of Christ Jesus
7. the FAITHFUL/BELIEVING followers of Christ Jesus
8. the FORGIVEN & LOVING followers of Christ Jesus
9. the LISTENING followers of Christ Jesus

STUDY 6

READ LUKE 6:27-49

In this section Luke highlights that the life of God's 'new' people is characterised by 'obedience' ... obedience that will show itself in radical action!

re-read Luke 6:46-49

What images are used?

Is there a sense of expectation about something happening in the future? What is to be expected ☺ when? How should this motivate action in the present?

As far as Jesus is concerned, what's the big issue (v46)? How are you similar to or different from those being addressed in this verse?

re-read Luke 6:27-31

What specific commands are given?

Which one do you find most challenging? Why?

re-read Luke 6:32-35a

How are 'repentant sinners' to act differently to 'sinners'?

*How does this passage challenge or confirm your **thinking**?*

*How does this passage challenge or confirm your **actions**?*

re-read Luke 6:35b-36

How does the passage seek to reveal what God is like? How should this motivate our actions in the present?

How do vv27-36 call on you to change the way you live?

re-read Luke 6:37-42

What specific commands and consequences are mentioned (vv37-38)?

What images are used (vv39-42)?

What kind of behaviour is discouraged? What response is called for?

How do vv37-42 call on you to change the way you live?

re-read Luke 6:43-45

What images are used?

What are you taught about being a follower of Christ Jesus?

What is one thing you've been challenged to do? Spend some time praying about it ... and start working on it this week!

STUDY 7

READ LUKE 7:1-35

In this section Luke reveals that God's 'new' people are 'faithful' followers of Christ Jesus ... that is, they are people who have recognised who Jesus is & who trust in him.

re-read Luke 7:1-10

Who are the main characters? What do you learn about them & their attitudes?

What surprises are there?

What do you think the main point is?

To ponder ...

"The Bible uses the word 'faith' to mean simply 'trust' ... Now faith understood in this sense (as trust) lies at the heart of our response to God ... Here then is the New Testament way of responding to God - we are to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus"

What 'everyday' things do we put our faith in?

*What do you think of this statement: "It is not our faith that is important. It is the **object** of our faith that matters"?*

For the rest of this section Luke wants to make it clear that Jesus ought to be the object of our faith ...

re-read Luke 7:11-35

What do each of these passages reveal about who Jesus is & what he came into the world to do?

Luke 7:11-17 (see also: Deut 18:15-18 & Matt 1:22-23)

Luke 7:18-23 (see also: Luke 4:18-19 & Is 61:1-2)

Luke 7:24-28 (Mal 3:1-5)

Luke 7:29-35

How do you feel after reading this?

How does this passage challenge (or confirm) where you put your faith?

What is one thing you've been challenged to do? Spend some time praying about it ... and start working on it this week!

STUDY 8

READ LUKE 7:36-50

In this section Luke reveals that God's 'new' people ('sinners' who have repented) have been 'forgiven' much & so 'love' much in response.

re-read Luke 7:36-39

Who are the main characters? What do you learn about them?

What surprises are there?

Who do you find yourself identifying with? Why?

re-read Luke 7:40-43

Jesus tells this story to illustrate & explain something that's happening in real life. Match up the characters in the story with the real life people.

Moneylender	Sinful woman
Person who owed 500 denarii (\$125,000)	Simon the Pharisee
Person who owed 50 denarii (\$12,500)	God/Jesus

Why do you think Jesus told this story?

re-read Luke 7:44-50

How does the story Jesus told help you to understand the significance of the actions/attitudes of the Pharisee & the sinful woman?

Re-read v47. *How could you sum up the meaning of this verse?*

Whose actions or attitudes are most like yours?

Is there an action or attitude that you need to change? How can you start working on that this week? Spend some time praying about it ...

STUDY 9

READ LUKE 8:1-21

In this section Luke highlights that God's 'new' people who have heeded his call to repent will continue to 'hear' his words & 'obey' them.

re-read Luke 8:1-4

How does this passage pick up some of the major themes from earlier in Luke?

re-read Luke 8:5-8

What or Who do you think each character represents?

Character	Represents ...
Farmer	
Seed	
Birds	
Those along the path	
Those on the rock	
Thorns	
Those among the thorns	
Those on good soil	

re-read Luke 8:9-15

Now fill in the same table, this time using the explanation Jesus gives.

Character	Represents ...
Farmer	
Seed	
Birds	
Those along the path	
Those on the rock	
Thorns	
Those among the thorns	
Those on good soil	

Why do you think Jesus told this parable? (HINT: see vv8-10 & 15)

Which of the different seed groups do you think best describes you? Does any of them worry or frighten you? Why/Why not?

re-read Luke 8:16-18

What images are used? What do you think they mean?

Is there a sense of expectation about something happening in the future? What is to be expected? How should this motivate action in the present?

What connection do you think there is between this passage and the previous parable? How do they both help you to think about 'hearing' well?

re-read Luke 8:19-21

Who does Jesus say are his mother & brothers ... his family? How does that make you feel?

Choose your own adventure ...

Pick a question ...

1. What things stop you from hearing God's word? What could/should you change?

2. What things stop you from obeying God's word? What could/should you change?

3. Do you think you're in danger of 'life's worries, riches & pleasures' choking your growth? How would you tell?

4. What do you think it means to 'produce a crop'? Do you think you're doing that? Does it matter? How could you be doing it better?

5. What are some specific things you need to change after reading this passage? (Try & think of at least 3)