



THE GOSPEL OF
Luke

LUKE 1-9 / TERM 1 2022

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*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 [fulfilled among us] you have been taught.** (Luke 1:1-4)*

*Extension questions are marked with a *.*

Overview of Luke's Gospel

WHAT IS IT? (GENRE)

Luke's Gospel is the longest book in the New Testament. Like the other 3 Gospels, it is a biography about Jesus. It is a historical investigation (1:3), and the first part of the 2 volumes of "Luke-Acts". Read Acts 1:1-2 to see how Luke summarises his "former book".

WHO WROTE IT? (AUTHOR)

"Luke-Acts" was written by a man called Luke (Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-2). So by word count, Luke wrote more of the New Testament than even the apostle Paul! Luke was a doctor (Colossians 4:14) and one of Paul's travelling companions (2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24, see "we" and "us" used in Acts 16:10-18; 20:5-15; 21:1-18; 27:1-28:16).

Unlike the other Gospel writers, Dr Luke was not an eye-witness of Jesus. Rather, he was a very careful researcher. The fact that Dr Luke had a Greek name and used very good Greek language suggests he is a Gentile.

WHO RECEIVED IT? (AUDIENCE)

Specifically, Dr Luke wrote for "most excellent Theophilus" (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1). While some writers question whether Theophilus

was actual or symbolic (his name means “lover of God”) and whether he was a Christian convert or an interested outsider, Luke 1:3-4 reads like Theophilus is a real man of some standing, who had been taught about Jesus but wants more certainty, and so may have commissioned the writing of Luke.

More generally, Dr Luke wrote for the second generation church (predominantly Gentiles), who had not been eye-witnesses to Jesus and needed “certainty about the things they had been taught” (1:4), like every generation since.

WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN? (DATING)

Luke’s Gospel seems to have been written in the late 50s or early 60s, as the book of Acts concludes before the deaths of Paul and Peter, which occurred during the Christian persecution by Emperor Nero in the late 60s. Luke’s Gospel may have been during Paul’s two year imprisonment in Jerusalem (Acts 21:33; 24:27) or his two year imprisonment in Rome (Acts 28:30).

HOW DOES IT FIT TOGETHER? (STRUCTURE)

Luke’s Gospel gives us *certainty* that Jesus is fulfilling God’s Old Testament promises about the Saviour of the World (1:1-4; 4:21; 18:31; 22:37; 24:44-49). And then Acts shows the outworking of

this, with the Mission to the World (Acts 1:1-8, 16; 3:18; 13:27, 33).

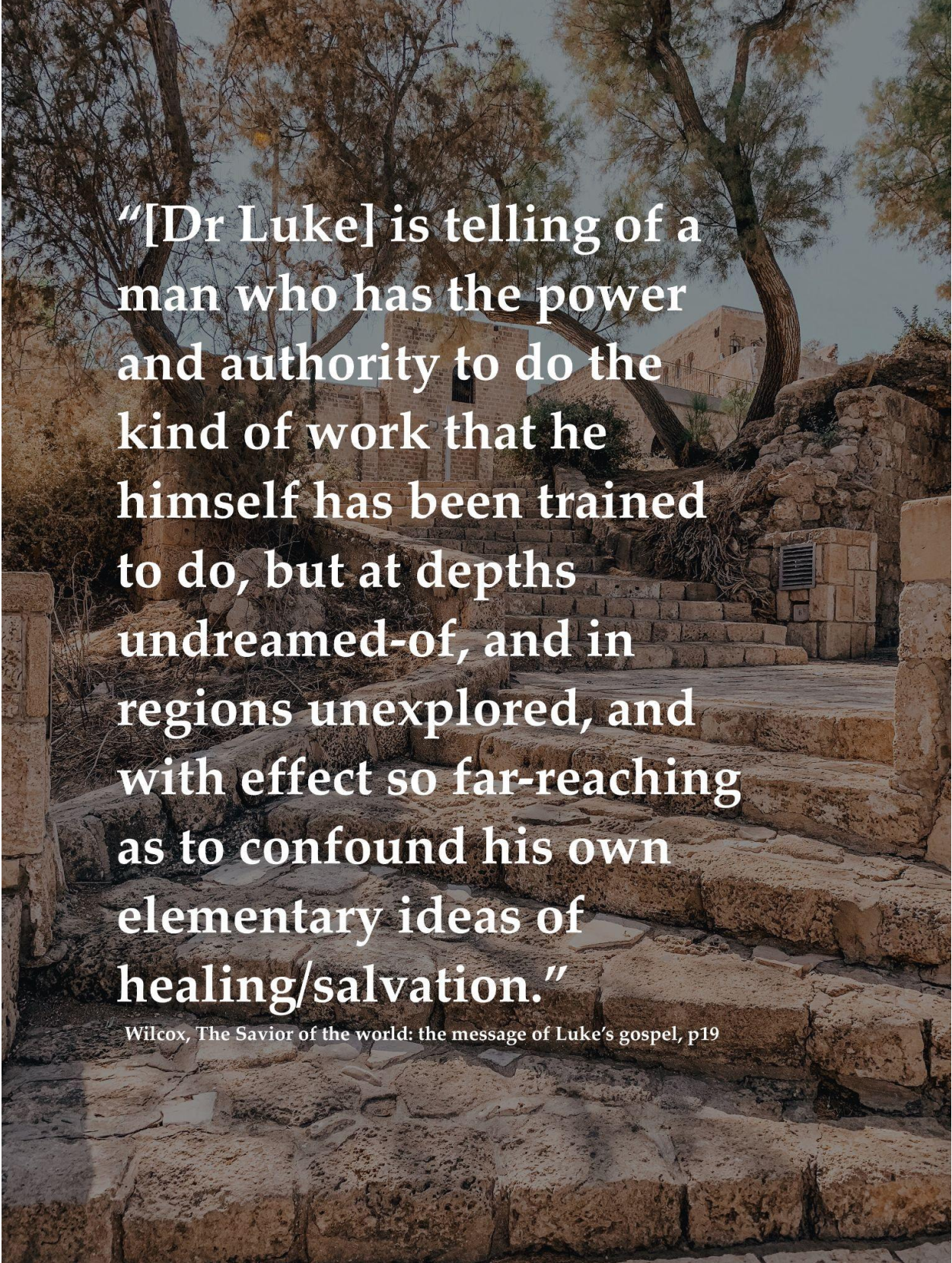
Dr Luke uses **geography** to structure his account of Jesus, with a huge turning point in 9:51.

1:1-4	Dr Luke's Introduction
1:5-4:13	Jesus' Credentials - Saviour of the world
4:14-9:50	Jesus' Mission in Galilee
9:51-19:27	Jesus' Mission on the way to Jerusalem
19:28-24:53	Jesus' Mission in Jerusalem

So in Luke's Gospel, the gospel goes from **Galilee** to **Jerusalem**, and then in Acts, from **Jerusalem** to the **ends of the earth** (Acts 1:8) - Paul ends up in the world capital Rome proclaiming God's kingdom "with all boldness and without hindrance" (Acts 28:28-31). Luke defines and defends the gospel, that we might declare the gospel (Taylor, Read Mark and Learn, 2018).

WHAT IS IT ABOUT? (THEMES)

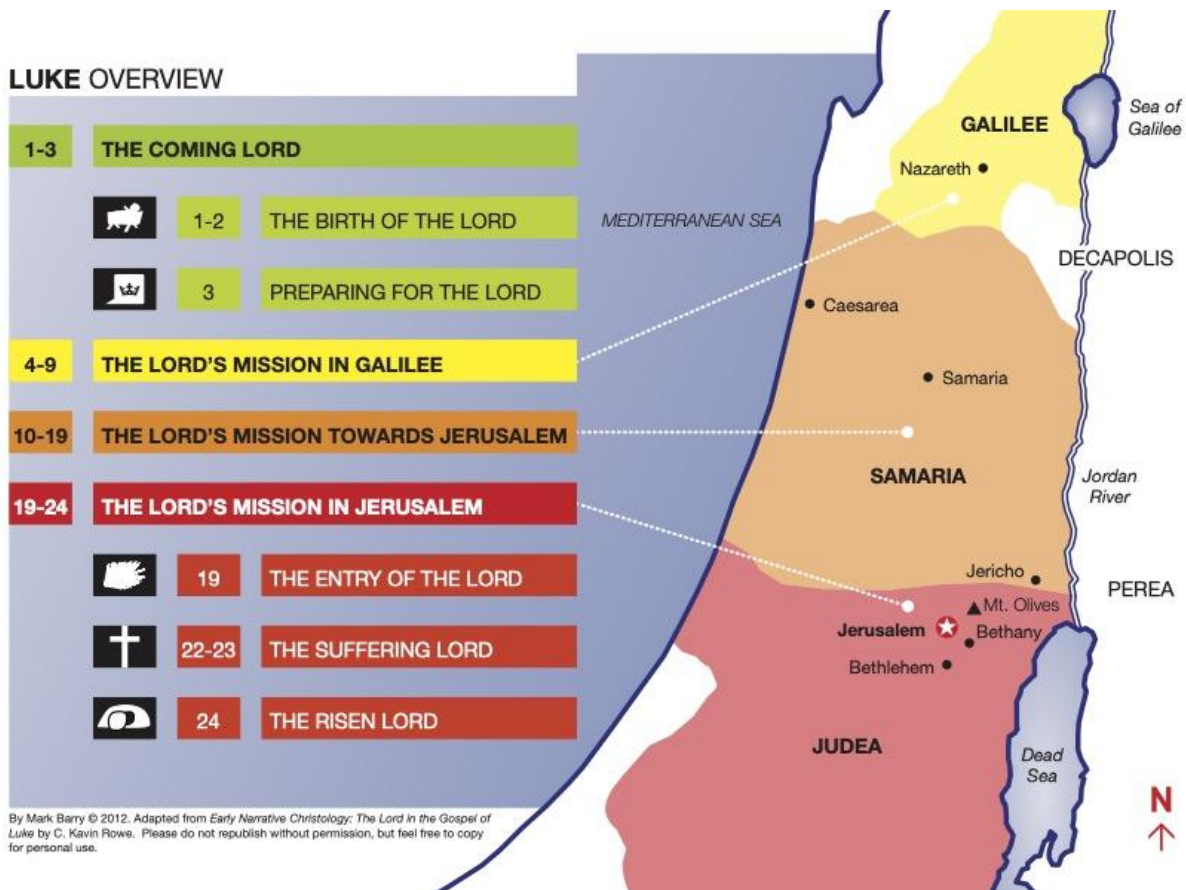
The Greek word 'sozo' can mean both saving/healing, and Luke uses it more times than any other book in the New Testament - the human doctor (Luke) wants everyone to know the divine doctor (Jesus).



“[Dr Luke] is telling of a man who has the power and authority to do the kind of work that he himself has been trained to do, but at depths undreamed-of, and in regions unexplored, and with effect so far-reaching as to confound his own elementary ideas of healing/salvation.”

Wilcox, *The Savior of the world: the message of Luke's gospel*, p19

Map

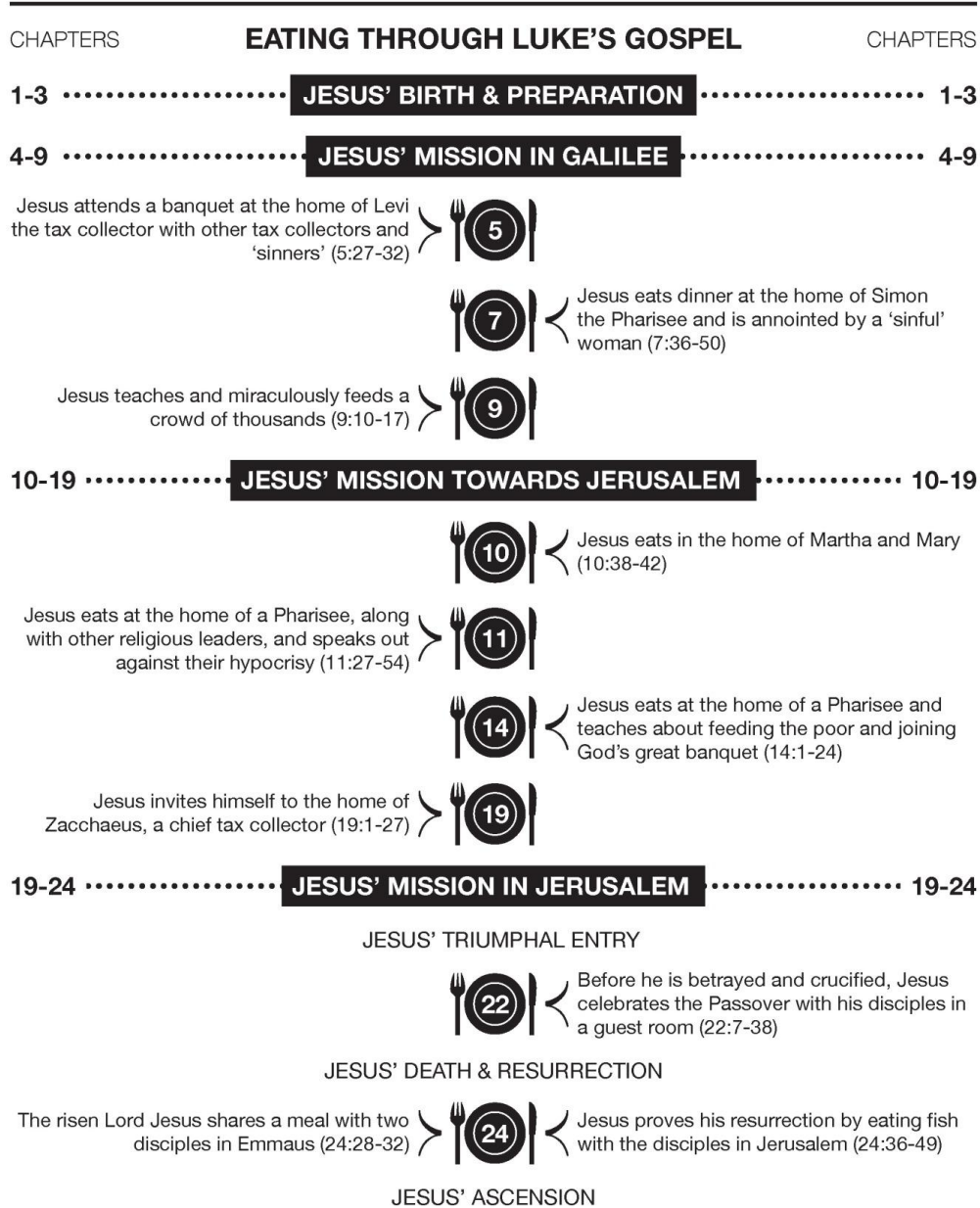


QUICK NOTE ABOUT READING LUKE'S GOSPEL

It's tempting to quickly apply the text to us. But Dr Luke writes the **unique history** about our Saviour (what he did **for** us) so that we will have **certainty** that everything is fulfilled in him. For example, in 4:1-13, the way Jesus deals with temptation is not primarily a model for us, but a **substitute** for us - ie unlike every human (represented in Adam), Jesus is the perfect Son of God (3:38) who is obedient to the Father.

Meals in Luke

Feasting with Jesus



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Study 1 - Overview of Luke 1-3

This week, we summarise Chapters 1-3, which we studied in Summer Church. Luke carefully introduces Jesus as the long-awaited Saviour of the world.

GETTING STARTED

What do you know about the Gospel of Luke? Do you have any favourite passages?

OVERVIEW

Read each section to see how Luke introduces Jesus.

Passage	Title	What do we learn about Jesus?
1:1-4	Luke's Introduction	
1:5-25	Miracle pregnancy 1 (John)	
1:26-38	Miracle pregnancy 2 (Jesus)	
1:39-56	The 2 mothers meet	
1:57-80	Miracle birth 1 (John)	
2:1-21	Miracle birth 2 (Jesus)	
2:22-52	Jesus at the temple	

3:1-20	John imprisoned	
3:21-37	Jesus' family history	

REFLECT

- Compare the beginning of Luke (1:1-4) with the other 3 Gospels (Matthew 1:1-17, Mark 1:1-8, John 1:1-18). What is unique about Luke's approach?
- *Why does Luke record the 2 miracle births? What is surprising about the genealogy (3:23-38)? How do these passages contribute to our certainty about who Jesus is?

PRAY FOR THE TERM AHEAD

In your own words, pray this prayer about Dr Luke, from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

Almighty God, who called Luke the Physician, whose praise is in the Gospel, to be an Evangelist, and Physician of the soul: May it please you that, by the wholesome medicines of the doctrine delivered by him, all the diseases of the soul may be healed, through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAY FOR OUR MISSION PARTNERS

<http://www.eac.org.au/partners>

Note: 3 of our 4 mission partners grew up at our church, and 3 are now serving the Lord in the Middle East!



Karen

Middle East | CMS



Mal & Charissa Forrest

Amman, Jordan | CMS



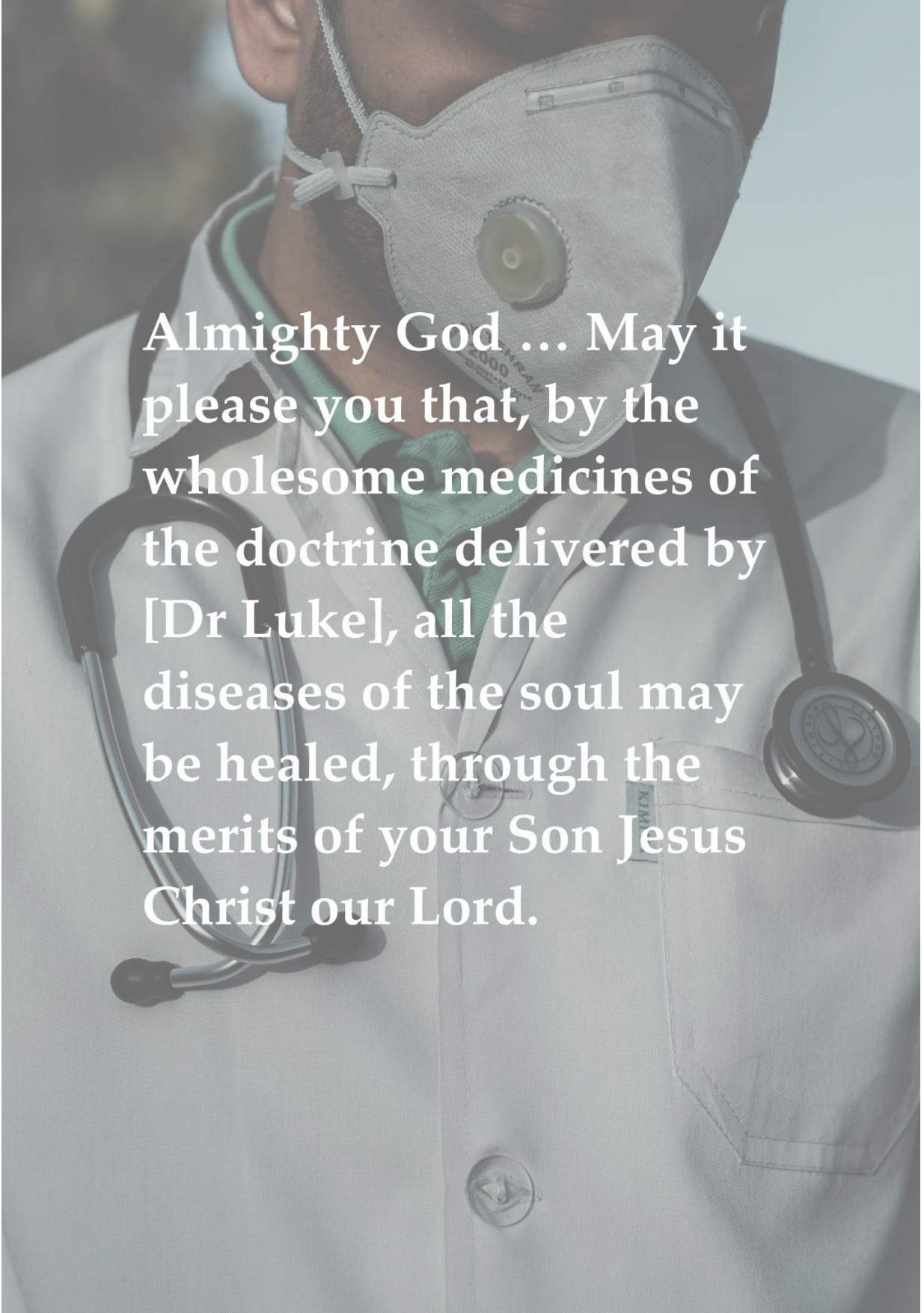
Kurt & Bec Langmead

Lightning Ridge | BCA



Sam & Marinka

Middle East (in training) |
CMS



Almighty God ... May it please you that, by the wholesome medicines of the doctrine delivered by [Dr Luke], all the diseases of the soul may be healed, through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Study 2 - Luke 4:1-13

Luke 4:1-13 is a very significant passage, indicated by the significant places (wilderness, high places, Jerusalem) and significant time (40 days). Chapters 1-3 have established that Jesus is the promised Saviour of the world- the Son of God (1:32, 35; 3:22, 38) - and now the devil tempts Jesus to **not** fulfil God's plan. But note: it is the Spirit who leads Jesus into the wilderness.

GETTING STARTED

In what ways does the devil tempt you?

READ LUKE 4:1-13

1. Fill out the table to summarise the 3 temptations.

Passage	Where is Jesus?	What does the devil offer Jesus?	How does Jesus respond?	Old Testament background
Temptation 1 v1-4				Deut 8:3
Temptation 2 v5-8				Deut 6:13
Temptation 3 v9-12				Psalm 91:11-12; Deut 6:16

2. What is the same in all 3 temptations?

3. When was the next “opportune time” (v13)? (eg 4:33-37; 8:12; 9:38-42; 10:17-20; 11:14-22; 13:10-17; and particularly 22:3-6, 31-32, 39-46, 52-53; 23:44-46)?

REFLECT

- “In the wilderness when he is tempted, Jesus is not primarily a model for us but a substitute for us”. Do you agree?
- Both the devil and Jesus quote Old Testament Scripture. What’s the difference? How is this a model to us?
- Where else is “40” used in the Old Testament? (eg Gen 7:4, Ex 24:18, 34:28; Lev 12:1-4; Num 14:33; Deut 25:1-3; 1 Ki 19:8; Eze 4:6). What is the significance of the “40 days” here in Luke?
- *What have we learnt about the Holy Spirit so far in Luke? (1:15, 35, 41, 67, 80 (see footnote); 2:25-27, 3:16, 22; 4:1) (cf Eze 36:25-27, Acts 2:17, 32-33, 38)
- *Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dhy0e4r5SVU>

PRAY

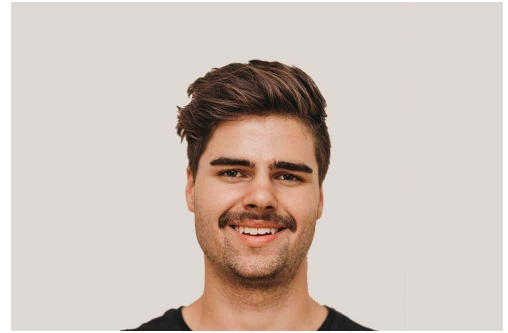
PRAY FOR OUR MINISTRY APPRENTICES

<http://www.eac.org.au/apprentices>



Sam Begg

ANU, Canberra (Year 2)



Ben Warren

UNSW (Year 1)



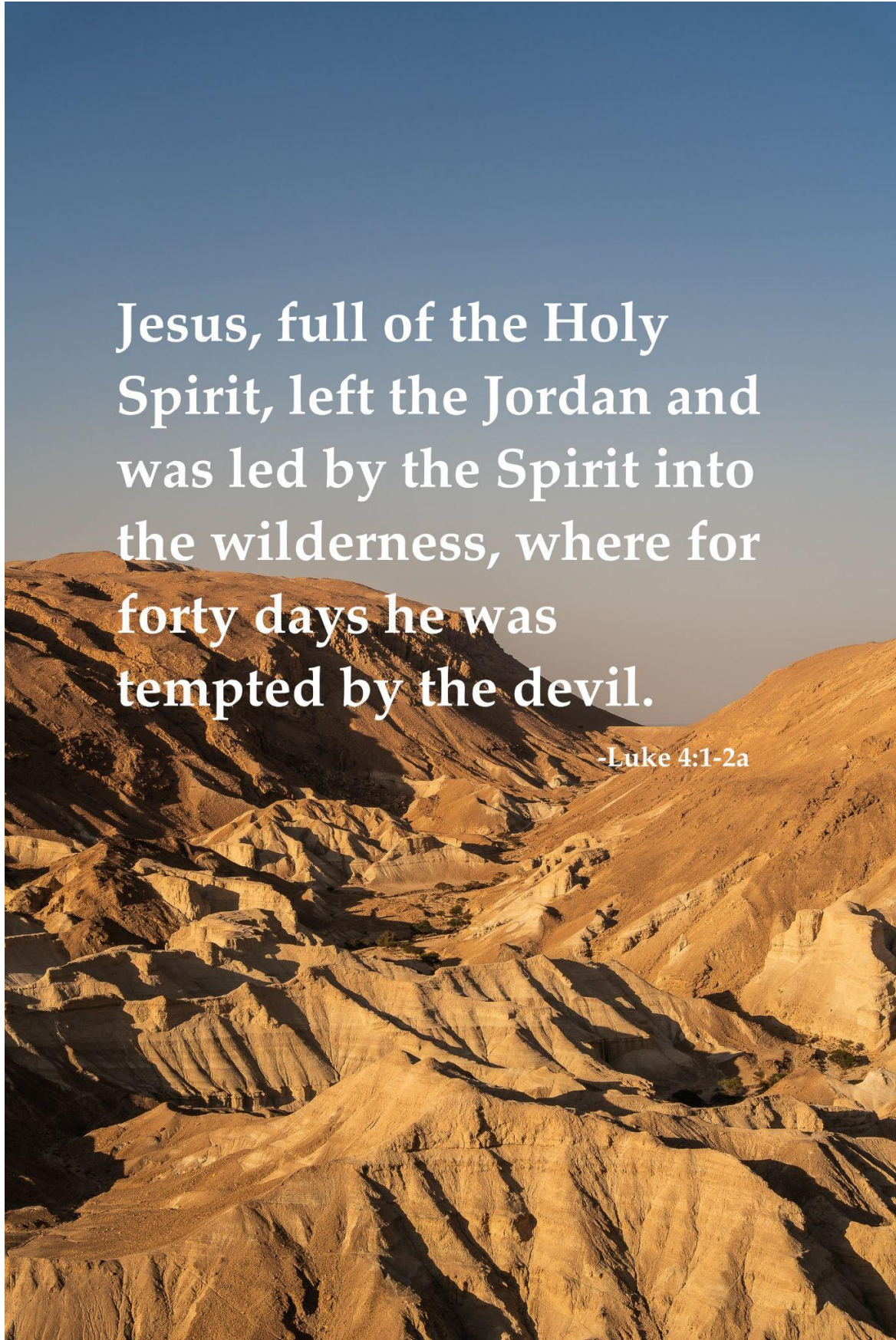
Tim Griffiths

EHAC (Year 2)



Alec De Gennaro

EHAC (Year 1)

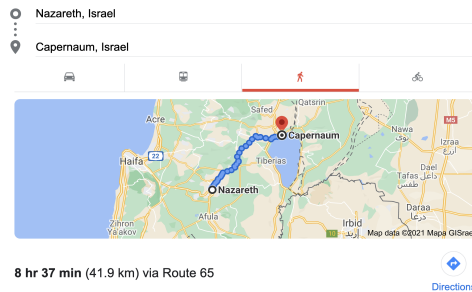


Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.

-Luke 4:1-2a

Study 3 - Luke 4:14-44

In Luke 4:14-44 Jesus returns to Galilee after a short visit to Jerusalem (4:9, 14). As he teaches in his own home town Nazareth and then Capernaum, we see very strong reactions, from initial amazement (v22, 32, 36) to deadly fury (v28-29), as predicted by Simeon (2:34-35).



GETTING STARTED

What is the strongest reaction you have ever seen to Jesus?

READ ISAIAH 61:1-2

Isaiah 61:1-2 is part of the wonderful last section of Isaiah (ch 40-66) where God promises his exiled people future restoration through his Servant. What most stands out to you?

READ LUKE 4:14-44

1. What is completely electrifying about v21?

2. Why were the people in the synagogue at Nazareth amazed? (v22)? What turns them from amazement to fury (v28)?

3. What are the reactions to Jesus in Capernaum?

v31-32

v33-37

v38-39

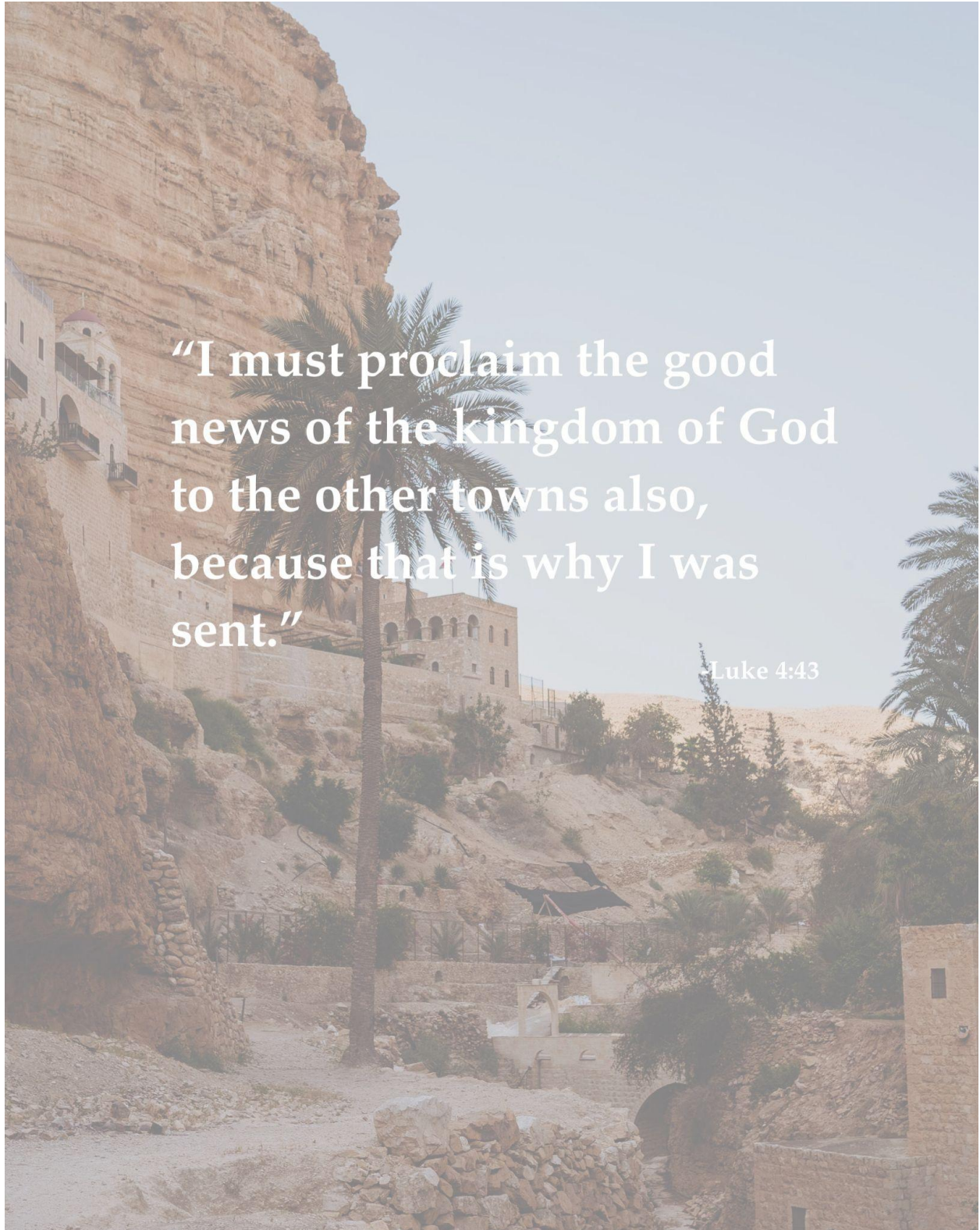
v40-41

v42-44

REFLECT

- *What is the Holy Spirit's role in Jesus' life? (4:1-2, 14-15).
- How does the deadly fury (4:29) help us to be realistic about how Christians are/will be treated in Australia? (see 6:22)
- Should the people in Nazareth have been infuriated by v23-27? Did the Old Testament teach that God's promised Saviour was for the *whole* world? Is there anyone you don't want to be saved?
- What is Jesus' priority in 4:43-44? How might we be like the people in v42?

PRAY



Study 4 - Luke 5:1-26

In Luke 5:1-26 Jesus teaches the people on the Sea of Galilee, before calling Simon and his partners to “fish for people”. By the end of the day, “Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, ‘We have seen remarkable things today’.”

GETTING STARTED

What’s the biggest fish you’ve ever caught?

READ LUKE 5:1-11

1. Why did Jesus teach from inside Simon’s boat (v1-3)?
2. When the boats began to sink with so many fish, why did Peter respond as he did (v8-11)?

READ LUKE 5:12-16

1. In what ways is v13 amazing?
2. Why did Jesus say “don’t tell anyone”? (v14-16)

READ LUKE 5:17-26

Note: Already Jesus is drawing attention from the Pharisees and teachers from every village in Galilee, as well as Judea and Jerusalem (v17).

1. Draw a picture of this scene.
2. Were the Pharisees and teachers right? (v21; see 1:77)
3. Which is easier? (v23)

REFLECT

- To what extent does v11 (or v28) describe all Christians?
- If the paralysed man was your friend, how would you respond to v20?
- Share stories on when you first understood Jesus' forgiveness, or any questions you have about it.

PRAY

So they pulled their
boats up on shore, left
everything and followed
him.

-Luke 5:11



Study 5 - Luke 5:27-6:11

In Luke 5:27-6:11, the Pharisees and teachers of the law (“scribes”) are on high alert (5:30, 33; 6:2, 7, 11), as Jesus reveals himself to the “bridegroom” (v34).

GETTING STARTED

In what situations do you find yourself watching to see if someone does something wrong?

READ LUKE 5:27-6:11

1. What is Levi’s response to Jesus? (5:27-29) Why?
2. By 6:11 the Jewish leaders are “furious and began to discuss with each other what they might do to Jesus”. Fill out the table to see what caused such fury.

Context	Jewish Leaders complaint	Jesus answer
5:29	5:30	5:31-32
	5:33	5:34-39

6:1	6:2	6:3-5
6:6	6:7	6:8-10

3. What does Jesus reveal about himself? (5:31-32, 34, 38; 6:5, 9)

REFLECT

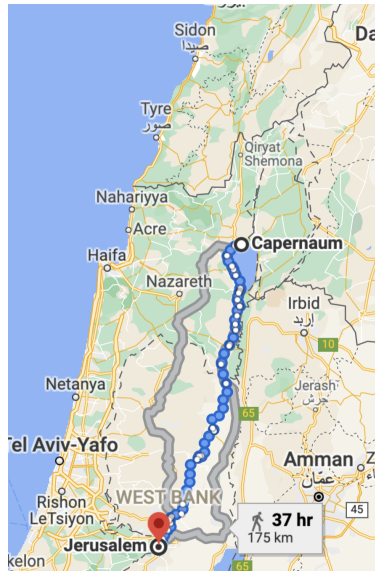
- How is Levi's response to Jesus (5:29) a picture of something much more? (14:15-24, Rev 19:10; see the "Meals with Jesus" in the Overview.)
- How is 5:34 a beautiful description of believers? How does the Bible apply "bridegroom" in Eph 5:32; Rev 19:7, 21:2?
- *What does 6:1-10 teach us about what "Sabbath" means in the New Testament (see Hebrews 4:1-11)?

PRAY



Study 6 - Luke 6:12-49

In Luke 6:12-49, after calling his 12 apostles, Jesus teaches a huge crowd of people, from all over Judea to the coast. But who is really “listening” (6:27, 7:1)?



GETTING STARTED

When in life do you find yourself “hearing” but not really “listening”?

READ LUKE 6:12-16

How did people become the 12 apostles? (see 5:10-11, 27-28)

READ LUKE 6:17-49

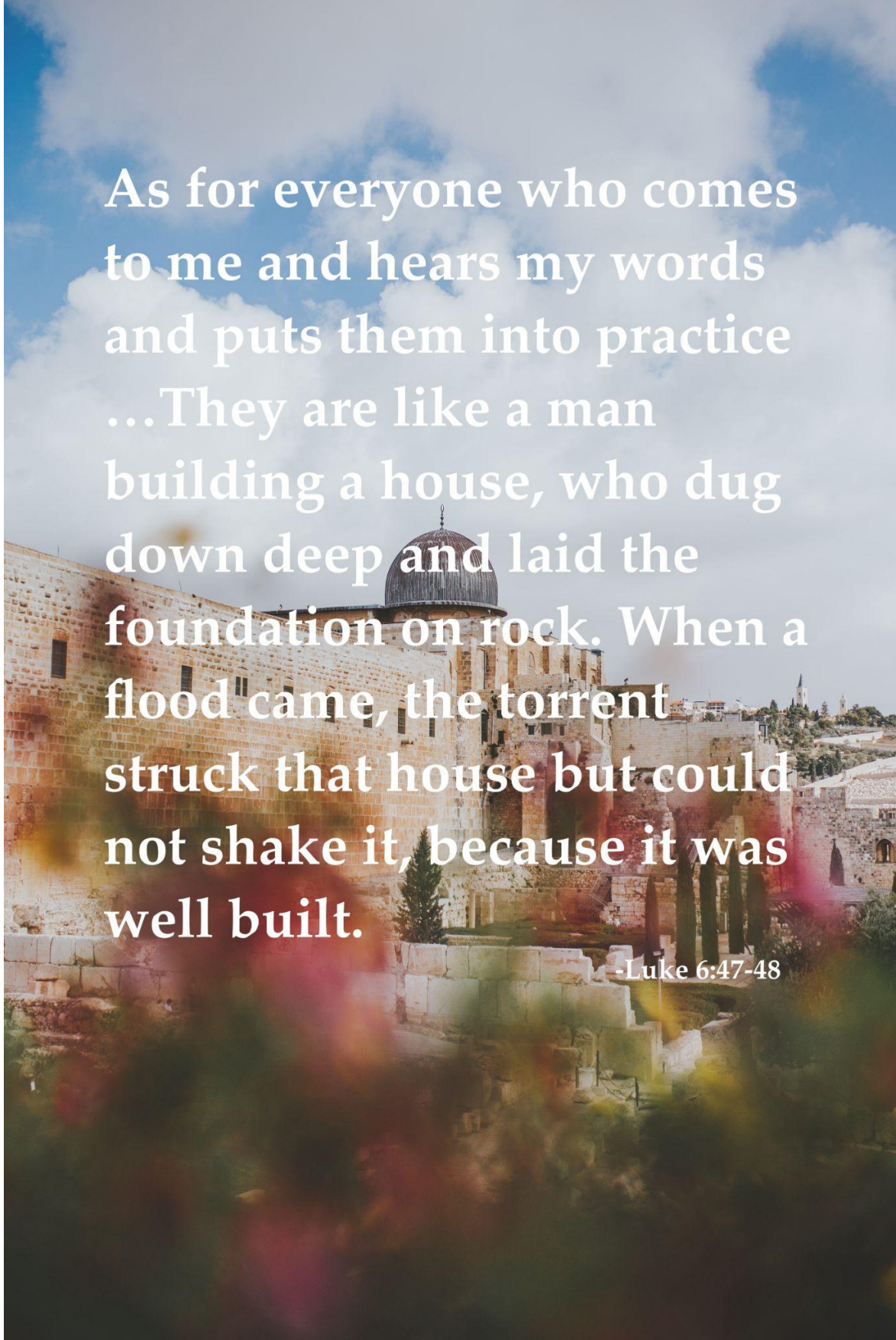
Fill out the table to summarise Jesus' sermon.

	What are the main themes in Jesus' teaching?
To the disciples	v20-23
To the "rich"	v24-26
To those "listening"	v27-36
	v37-42
	v43-45
	6:46-49

REFLECT

- What do we learn about prayer in v12? (see 5:16, 9:18, 28)
- *Why did Jesus choose Judas to be in the 12? (see 22:1-6)
- *What does "power was coming from him" mean? (6:19)
- How might we be "hearing" Jesus not "listening"? (6:17-19, 27, 46). How can we be like v47?

PRAY



As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice ... They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.

-Luke 6:47-48

Study 7 - Luke 7:1-17

In Luke 7:1-17 Jesus returns to Capernaum (4:23; 4:31) and not only heals but brings life.

GETTING STARTED

If you had to describe Jesus in one word, what would it be?

READ LUKE 7:1-10

1. What do we learn about the centurion (Roman soldier)?

v2

v3

v4-5

v6-7a

v7b-8

v9

2. How is the servant healed? (v9-10)

READ LUKE 7:11-17

1. What do we learn about Jesus?

v11

v12-13

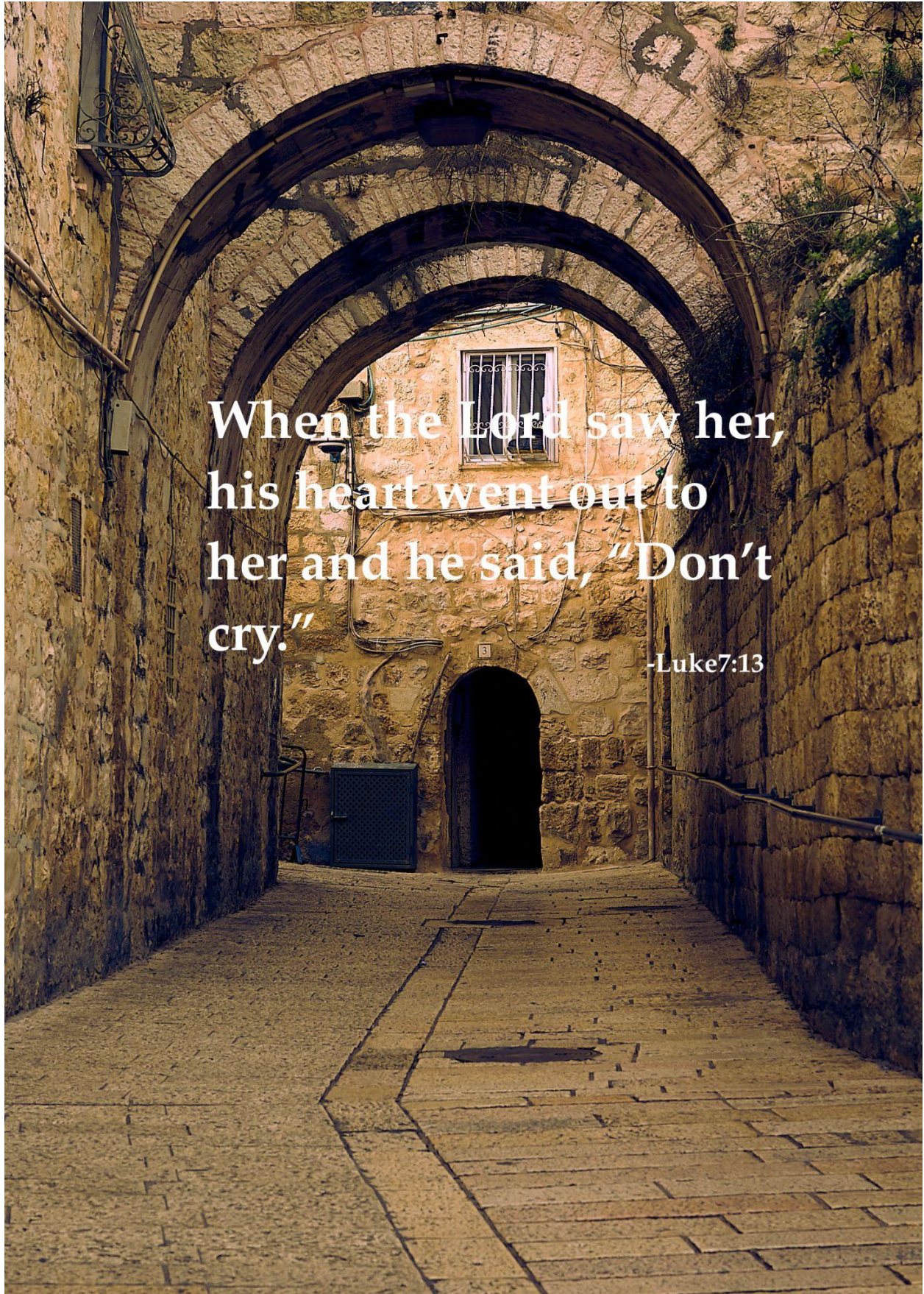
v14-15

2. What do the people in Nain conclude? (v16-17)

REFLECT

- How is the centurion a model of 6:47-48?
- What are some different ways that Jesus heals? (v10, see 5:13, 24-25; 6:10, 19)
- To what extent is 7:13 the way you see and describe Jesus? How could you weave this story of Jesus into a conversation with an unbeliever this week?

PRAY



Study 8 - Luke 7:18-50

In Luke 7:18-50, we see a surprising conversation with John the Baptist, followed by a chilling conversation with Simon the Pharisee.

GETTING STARTED

'Whoever has been forgiven little loves little' (v47b).

What does this mean? When have you seen it?

READ LUKE 7:18-20

Notice: John the Baptist's ministry (1:13-17, 76-80) still continues, possibly from prison (3:20), via his disciples (7:18).

1. In v19, why is John's question to Jesus surprising? (see 1:39-45; 3:21-22)

2. Why do you think John needed to ask? (see 3:15-20)

READ LUKE 7:21-23

How does Jesus use Isaiah 61:1-2 to answer John? (see 4:18-21)

READ LUKE 7:24-35

How does Jesus challenge the crowds?

READ LUKE 7:36-50

1. Why is the unnamed woman weeping (v36-38, 44-50)?

2. How is Jesus' lesson to the Pharisee Simon chilling?

REFLECT

- What do you think these curious verses mean in context?

v23

v35

- How are we “greater” than John the Baptist (v28)? Spend time praising God for the immense privilege (and responsibility) of living AD.
- ‘He/she who is forgiven much, loves much’. (cf v47) Does this describe you? Why or why not?

PRAY



Therefore, I tell you,
her many sins have
been forgiven—as
her great love has
shown.

-Luke 7:47

Study 9 - Luke 8

In this passage, Jesus repeats his challenge to “consider carefully how you listen” (v18a, see 6:46-49), with a huge motivation (v18b).

GETTING STARTED

What are different ways to listen?

READ LUKE 8:1-3

Write a list of who’s with Jesus, and what they’re doing.

READ LUKE 8:4-21

Fill in the table to summarise the passage.

Parable	Represents	Examples
Seed	v11	v1
Soil#1 (path)	v12	7:44-47
Soil#2 (rocky)	v13	v4
Soil#3 (thorns)	v14	v3

Soil#4 (good)	v15	V1-3
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2. Why does Jesus speak in parables? (v9-10)

3. Why is it important to listen carefully to Jesus? (v18-21)

READ LUKE 8:22-56

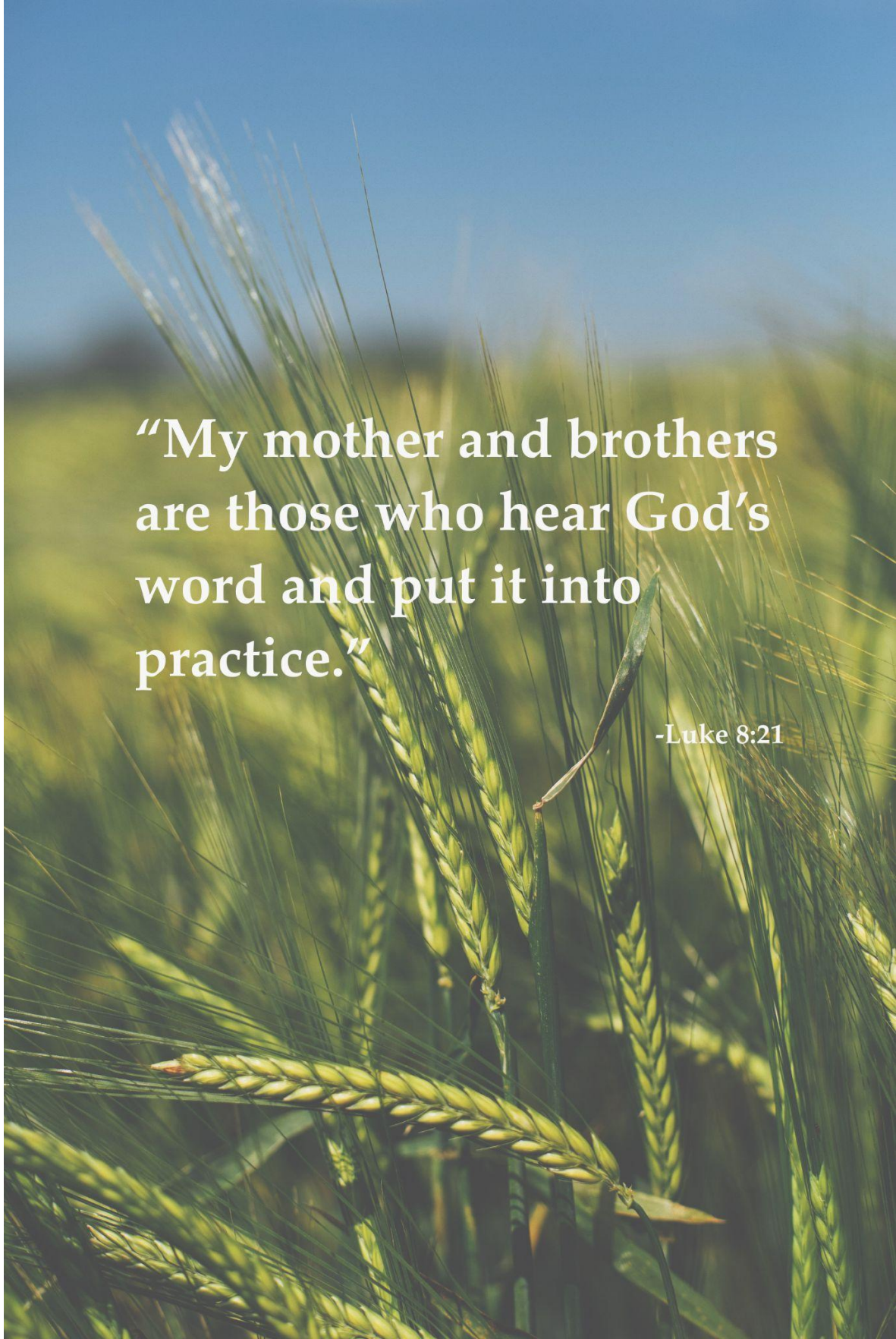
Passage	What did Jesus do?	How did people respond?
v22-25		
v26-39		
v40-42a, 49-56		
v42b-48		

What extra reasons are given here to listen to Jesus?

REFLECT

- It's been said "parables are earthly stories with a heavenly meaning". Does this fit with v10?
- What are different ways that people "fear" Jesus? (v24, 25, 28, 35, 37, 47, 50)
- Privately reflect on Soils 1-4.
 - Which one best describes you at the moment?
 - Pray for those you know who are in danger of being Soils 1-3.
 - Thank God for someone who has been Soil #4 to you (ie you are part of their good crop).
- How can we help each other to listen to Jesus more carefully?

PRAY



“My mother and brothers
are those who hear God’s
word and put it into
practice.”

-Luke 8:21