



CHRISTIANITY WITHOUT THE RELIGION

BIBLE SURVEY

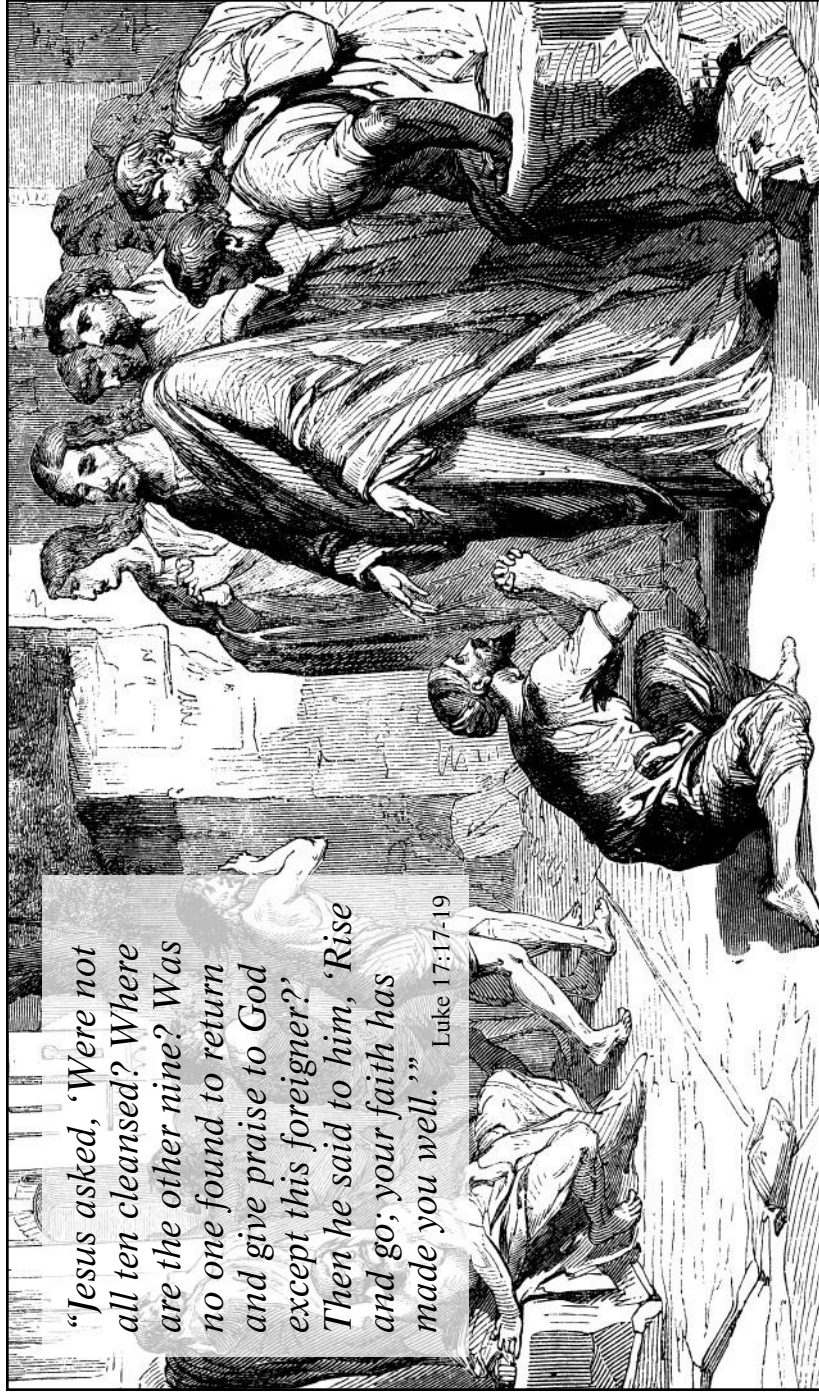
THE UN-DEVOTIONAL

LUKE

Week 4

“Jesus asked, ‘Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?’ Then he said to him, ‘Rise and go; your faith has made you well.’”

Luke 17:17-19



Walking In the Footsteps of Jesus

DAY 22

Luke 17:1-37

Pick up today's newspaper or watch the news. Are the headlines related to earthly or spiritual pursuits? Does it seem that our culture is concerned with godly values?

1. Should Christians seek more to forgive, or to be forgiven (see Mt 18:21-35)?
2. Can faith be increased? If so, how? Did Jesus use exaggeration to make his point (vs. 6)?
3. How are you to serve (vs. 7-10)? Do you owe everything to God, or does your act of service somehow make you worthy of his good gifts?
4. In the story of the ten lepers, who showed gratitude for God's blessings (vs. 11-19)? How does gratitude demonstrate one's faith?
5. How does the kingdom of God come (vs. 20-21)? Why did Jesus emphasize this to the Pharisees?
6. Is the kingdom also future? In his statements about the present (vs. 20, 21, 25) and the future (vs. 22-24, 26-37), what point did Jesus make about the outlook and conduct of Christians?

1. Which element in this chapter best represents you? (a) millstone, (b) forgiver, (c) forgiven, (d) mustard seed faith, (e) profitable servant, (f) unprofitable servant, (g) leper, (h) healed leper.
2. Consider your blessings. Have you thanked God lately for them—despite your unworthiness? Remember that his worthiness overcomes our unworthiness.
3. Remember Lot's wife for a few minutes (v. 32; Ge 19:26).

Consider this hymn:

*Count your many blessings,
Name them one by one,
Count your many blessings,
See what God has done.*

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

into the Word

LIVING

out the Word

WINDOW

on the Word

“The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: “God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.” But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.””

Luke 18:11, 13



Artwork by Jody Eastman

Pray the Prayer of the Prey

DAY 23

Luke 18:1-43

Do you have any financial investments? Have your investments increased or decreased in value in the last year?

1. What does the tenacity of the widow who pleads with the “unjust judge” teach us about faith (vs. 1-8)? Could she have been an easy prey for society’s indifference?

2. How does the attitude of the tax-collector parallel the humility of a child (vs. 9-17)? How should we therefore approach Jesus?

3. A rich young ruler asked Jesus how to inherit eternal life (vs. 18-27). What good things did the ruler claim to have done? What did he lack? Is it possible to enter the kingdom on human merit (vs. 24-30)?

4. Why did the disciples not understand Jesus’ third prophecy of his crucifixion (vs. 31-34; compare Lk 9:21-27; 9:43-45)?

5. Why did the blind man see Jesus and understand his divine mercy while the Pharisees remained blinded to his identity (vs. 35-43)?

1. How tenacious are you? Do you pray without losing heart?

2. How much joy do you feel in receiving the precious gift of God’s grace (vs. 26-27)?

3. Does your faith in Jesus enable you to withstand family problems and personal pain (vs. 28-43)?

In this chapter, Jesus contrasts the tenacious prayers of a widow, the prideful self-reflections of a Pharisee and the pleadings for mercy of a tax-collector. A rich young ruler sadly walks away from becoming a disciple while a blind man comes to see and follow Jesus.

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

into the Word

LIVING

out the Word

WINDOW

on the Word

The Suffering Servant Who Is King

Luke 19:1-48

OPENING
up to the Word

Do you love a parade? Horses? Marching bands? What notable people have you seen as parade grand marshals? How did the crowd react as the marshal rode past?

DIGGING
into the Word

1. How did Zacchaeus, the short, rich tax-collector, come to find salvation (vs. 1-10)? How did his attitude toward giving contrast with the rich young ruler in the previous chapter (18:22-23)?

2. When did the disciples believe the kingdom would come (19:11)? How does the parable of the mina or pound (about three months' wages) address that question (vs. 12-27)? How should Jesus' servants live in the time between his first and second coming?

3. Study the account of Jesus' "triumphal entry" into Jerusalem (vs. 28-44). Compare the chant of the crowd to the messianic expectations in Psalm 118:27.

4. How did the mood change when Jesus drew near Jerusalem (vs. 41-44; see Lk 13:34-35)?

LIVING
out the Word

1. Is money used by Jesus to tell us about our hearts? Is your greatest asset the salvation he gives you? How have you responded?

2. Do you have the humility to ride a donkey if you could ride in a chariot instead?

WINDOW
on the Word

The **triumphal entry** of Jesus into Jerusalem came at the time of the Passover and spring festivals of the Jews. The crowd sang from Psalms 118:25-26 as Jesus rode in on a donkey. This Psalm was well known to the disciples because it was recited daily on the first six days of the fall Feast of Tabernacles and seven times on the seventh day. Jesus was not acclaimed by the political or religious leaders nor given special status.

The Son Who Is the Stone

DAY 25

Luke 20:1-47

Has your authority or ability ever been questioned? How did you feel? (a) angry, (b) blessed, (c) didn't care, (d) defensive.

1. Why were the chief priests and scribes afraid to acknowledge Jesus' authority (vs. 1-8)? How did Jesus respond to their question? Why?
2. Outline the parable of the evil tenants of the vineyard (vs. 9-19). How did the chief priests and scribes understand Jesus (v. 19)? How did this parable reflect the history of Israel (v. 17)?
3. What is the Christian responsibility in supporting the work of God and the work of the state (vs. 20-26)?
4. How does the mystery of the resurrection help us to better understand the nature of eternal life (vs. 27-40)? How would the Sadducean priests and scribes respond to this lesson? See Acts 23:8.
5. Solve the riddle in verses 41-44. (Hint: the first "Lord" is God the Father). In which capacity is Jesus human and in which is he divine?
6. Why did Jesus warn the people about the scribes (vs. 45-47)?

1. Consider a stone building. How important is the stone at the corner? Is Jesus the cornerstone of your life?
2. How do your gifts to others, through the church and state, reflect God's blessings to you?
3. Is your religious life a reflection of deep conviction? Or is it a pretense?

Jesus gave a parable based on common agricultural practice. Owners leased farmland to individuals who worked the land and paid rent based on its productivity. He then used a common coin, minted with the impression of the emperor, as an object lesson about Christian ethics.

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

into the Word

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out the Word

WINDOW

on the Word

The Prophet of Pestilence and Peace

Luke 21:1-38

OPENING
up to the Word

What's in the news today? Are there any religious leaders who deceive their followers?

DIGGING
into the Word

1. Compare the gift of the rich against the offering of the widow (vs. 1-4). Was Jesus (a) against the rich (b) teaching about spiritual commitment, (c) sadly noting that the demands of the religious establishment were impoverishing the poor.
2. What signs were given by Jesus (vs. 5-24)? Where was he speaking? To whom? In answer to what questions?
3. How often have the signs given in verses 5-19 been repeated since Jesus' time? What do they mean? (a) Jesus has already returned, (b) war will always rage, (c) natural disasters are inevitable, (d) we can't know when he'll return.
4. Jesus turns to another matter, his return in glory (vs. 25-38). What signs would precede his return?
5. How are Christians to live in the present as they wait for the fullness of the kingdom (vs. 19, 28-36)?

LIVING
out the Word

1. When you make your next gift to a church or ministry, take time to pray that God will bless it for the benefit of others.
2. Have you ever been hated for the sake of Jesus (v. 17)? Are you safe (v. 18)?
3. Check your Christian pulse. Are you alive—or dying from carousing, drunkenness and anxieties of this life (v. 34)?

WINDOW
on the Word

*In A.D. 70, Titus, son of Emperor Vespasian, captured Jerusalem and burned the Temple. Jesus' statement in verse 32 has at least two possible meanings. One explanation is that Jesus was talking about the **destruction of Jerusalem** in A.D. 70. This would answer the questions in verse 7. But some Church Fathers favored it as a prophecy for the generation living at Jesus' return. In that case, "this generation" would mean those who continue the witness of Jesus until the end of this age. Regardless, Jesus taught that the fullness of the kingdom will come at his future return.*

The Lasting Supper

DAY 27

Luke 22:1-30

Picture the apostles sitting at the kingdom banquet table with Jesus, and then you are asked to join them. How exciting would that be? What's on the menu?

1. How was fear involved in controlling the actions of the priests and Judas Iscariot (vs. 1-6)?
2. What instructions did Christ give the disciples for preparing for the Jewish Passover (vs. 7-13)? Why was he so specific?
3. How does Luke describe the sacraments of the Lord's Supper (vs. 14-20)? What does the broken bread represent? And the cup? When will Jesus partake again of this meal?
4. How did the act of betrayal set up Jesus' teaching on greatness (vs. 21-27)? Compare this instruction with Luke 9:46-48.
5. How do the sacraments of the Lord's Supper (22:14-20) point toward the joyful banquet to come at the return of Jesus (vs. 28-30)?

1. How do you feel when you participate in the Lord's Supper? (a) alive, (b) beloved, (c) cleansed, (d) elated, (e) forgiven, (f) grateful, (g) humbled.
2. Have you ever been betrayed? Were you able to forgive?
3. Name some times you found humble service to be satisfying. How does this type of service provide leadership for others?

Thousands of lambs were slain on the day of the Passover. On that evening, Jewish families gathered to commemorate the redemption of Israel from Egypt and slavery (see Ex 12). The Passover was a required ceremony under the old covenant (Ex 12:11-14; 23:15; Lev 23:4-5). Jesus fulfills the old covenant, for he is our Passover sacrifice (1Co 5:7).

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

into the Word

LIVING

out the Word

WINDOW

on the Word



“While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, ‘Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?’”

Luke 22:47-48

Falsely Arrested, Falsely Convicted!

DAY 28

Luke 22:31-71

How would defense attorneys of our day have pleaded Jesus' case? What affect would televising the court proceedings have had?

1. Compare the prediction of Peter's betrayal (vs. 31-34) with the previous story of Judas Iscariot (vs. 1-6, 21-23). How strong is the desire to protect oneself when accused by others?

2. How prepared were the disciples (vs. 35-38)? How do these instructions differ from those in Luke 9:1-6? Did the disciples understand the need for swords (Lk 22:38)?

3. What emotions did Jesus display in anticipating the excruciating pain of the crucifixion (vs. 39-46)? How important was prayer at that time?

4. How did the religious leaders arrest Jesus (vs. 47-53)? Were some of the disciples prepared to fight to establish the kingdom then and there?

5. Outline the denials of Peter (vs. 54-62). Was he angry or afraid? What emotion did he display?

6. How did the religious leaders, the council of the Sanhedrin, approach Jesus (vs. 66-71)? Were they seeking truth or trying to catch him in blasphemy so they would have an excuse to condemn him?

1. Have you ever denied Jesus? In word? In actions?

2. Are you praying that Jesus will strengthen your faith (v. 32)?

3. Are you praying that God will help you avoid temptation (vs. 40, 46)?

4. Have you ever thanked Jesus for what he endured on the cross for you?

The religious leaders held great power, but they were not committed to serve the people. They served their own purpose in order to maintain their power and control over the people. They feared the people, so they took Jesus in the dark of night and began his trial at daybreak.

OPENING

up to the Word

DIGGING

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on the Word

Christ Crucified

Luke 23:1-56

OPENING
up to the Word

Some feel that the meaning of the cross is seen in the Father pouring out his wrath on his Son. Consider how wrong-headed such an interpretation is.

DIGGING
into the Word

1. Why was Barabbas released (23:13-25)? What does that say about the religious leaders?
2. Consider the agony of the walk with the cross (vs. 26-32). How did Jesus express his concern for others?
3. How did Jesus further demonstrate compassion as he hung on the cross (vs. 33-43)?
4. Consider the crowd at the cross (vs. 44-49). What did Jesus say? Who believed him? Who stayed with him?
5. Which council member stood against the crowd (vs. 50-56)? How did he serve Jesus even in death?

LIVING
out the Word

1. If you could take the place of one onlooker at the crucifixion, who would it be?
2. What type of person is it most difficult for you to forgive? (a) thieves, (b) murderers, (c) traitors, (d) criminals, (e) family members, (f) friends.

WINDOW
on the Word

***An inscription** hung over Jesus on the cross (v. 38). It was written in the three common languages of the day; Greek, Latin and Aramaic: "This is the King of the Jews." Although this public record of his "crime" was intended to mock Jesus, it served as a true statement of his place in history.*

Christ Resurrected

DAY 30

Luke 24:1-53

Have you ever eaten a meal with a famous, wealthy or powerful person? Were you nervous? How did the food taste? If you could select one famous person to dine with, who would it be?

1. Outline the events starting Sunday morning and continuing late that historic day (vs. 1-53).

2. How did the meal Jesus ate with the two men in Emmaus parallel the Lord's Supper (v. 30)? How did the reaction of the two men contrast with the response of the religious leaders in the previous chapter (vs. 31-32)?

3. How does Jesus strengthen your faith (vs. 25-26, 38-39)?

4. How did Jesus point the disciples beyond the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms to himself (vs. 25-27, 44-49)?

1. Would you like to eat a meal with Jesus like the two men from Emmaus? What questions would you ask him?

2. Are you troubled? Have doubts (v. 38)? How can Jesus give you peace (v. 36)?

*In Luke's account, most of the activities in chapter 24 occur on **Easter/Resurrection Sunday**. This was the third day (vs. 7,21) from the crucifixion, so readers would understand that the crucifixion had been on Friday, the day of preparation for the Sabbath. On the Sabbath the body of Jesus "rested" in the tomb; on Sunday, in his resurrected body, a new day and era dawned in which humanity at large might receive new life in Jesus. Although in Luke's Gospel it seems that Jesus ascended to heaven that same day (vs. 50-51), Luke explains in his second volume that the ascension was actually 40 days later (Ac 1:3). Jesus is now alive in heaven, interceding for us. Praise God!*

OPENING

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