

Week 3 notes

(SLIDE 1) The Life of Christ Week 3

(SLIDE 2) Begin with prayer and allow others to pray for any other requests

(SLIDE 3 to 10) Short quiz.

(SLIDE 4) Why did Jesus perform miracles? I can think of at least 3 reasons;

- 1) So that we can believe that he is the son of God and he is God. Jesus was divine and he said things like, God is my Father, I am the light of the world, I am the way the truth and the life, I am the living bread that came down from heaven (John 8:12, 14:6, 6:51), and when he was being questioned if he is “The” son of God he said yes and that he will be seated at the right hand of God (Matthew 26:64). So he showed that he was different by doing things that mere human beings could not do. See John 14:8-11 (SLIDE 5)
- 2) He genuinely cared about people’s well being and their joy (Matthew 14:14) (SLIDE 6)
- 3) He wanted to build up the faith of those who believed in him. (Luke 8:24-25) (SLIDE 7)

(SLIDE 13) Discussion introduction and reminder that all materials and voice are located at www.gabsnet.com

(SLIDE 14) Read Luke 4:42-44

I would like to begin with where we left off last week because as we continue to read about Jesus’ miracles and healings we realize that he was on mission and he was here physically on earth for a specific purpose.

Last week we ended with an important message from [Luke 4:42](#) where the crowds in Judea loved Jesus so much they did not want him to leave and go anywhere else.

Jesus responds to them in [verse 42](#) and says “I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God in other towns, too, because that is why I was sent”.

Elsewhere in the other gospel of Matthew 28:19, he echoes the same message to us similar to what he was doing on earth saying we should do the same thing.

(SLIDE 15) [Matthew 28:19](#) says “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

And one wonders or the question that comes out of at least the two scriptures is why does Jesus want disciples in all nations and why does he want good news preached everywhere?

Does Jesus want his message and disciples in the middle East?

Does Jesus want his message and disciples in Asia?

Does Jesus want his message and disciples in the Americas?

Does Jesus want his message and disciples in Africa?

Does Jesus want his message and disciples in Australia?

Does Jesus want his message and disciples in Europe?

Does Jesus want his message and disciples in Antarctica?

WHY JESUS AND WHY DOES HE WANT US SPREADING THE GOSPEL?

(SLIDE 16) Luke 19:10 - If you are not a christian, no matter where you are or who you are or whatever religion you are in, you are lost and that is why need Jesus. That is also our purpose, to be used by him [to save and seek the lost](#).

He is coming to a world and we are in a world where there are problems. Last week John the baptist called us a brood of snakes because we are:

sinners and our sin comes in different forms;

- [Satan and demons](#) - Satan and demons are active and we need to be aware
- [Flesh](#) - we have our own weaknesses and fleshly desires
- [World](#) - ideologies that are not in line with God and Jesus like consumerism

But there is good news and there is a light at the end of the tunnel because Jesus has conquered all these challenges and through him we can conquer them too.

That is what Jesus was working with and he did not want to work alone so [in chapters 5 and 6 he calls 12 disciples that he calls apostles](#).

Up to this point Jesus' ministry has been about come and see the Messiah, he has been ;

- preaching
- teaching
- performing miracles
- casting out demons
- [helping those who suffer and have needs](#)

So there is a transition here in that you cannot just watch Jesus do his thing and just praise him but you also [need to walk with him](#), you also [need to serve with him](#). You do [not just watch people give generously but you also give generously](#). You invite people to church and hangout with them and have a nice meal but the expectation is that they would also walk and serve with Jesus at some point whether in our congregation or

wherever Jesus chooses to plant them. Notice what Jesus does before he chooses and goes on the road with his disciples;

(SLIDE 17) Luke 6:12-13 - He prays and prays a lot and then proceeds boldly with what he needs to do. With his disciples he travels around Judea and preaches the gospel, the good news about why he is on earth, through miracles and through parables which we will spend the rest of class on.

Parables are simple stories that are memorable and built for the ear. The word “parable” is derived from the greek word “**parabole**” which means “**putting things side by side**” or saying things in a different way. They are stories told by Jesus. They work for the young and the old, and they can be **simple but profound**. These stories help to shape our life and pack in big, life-changing meaning. They call us to **repentance** and **change**.

About 35% of Jesus’ teaching is in parable form. He is telling stories and in the book of Luke he mainly does that between Luke 10 and 20.

One of the ways we can most be served by studying the parables is figuring out in the story,

“Who am I? **Which character in the story am I?**” and inserting ourselves so that we receive not just **information** but **transformation**. We are not just enjoying a good story but we are **listening** to how God wants to **change** us through this story.

"The parables **focus on God and his kingdom** and in doing so reveal what kind of God he is, by what principles he works, and what he expects of humanity, what he expects of us"

Questions to ask ourselves when going through parables are;

(SLIDE 18) Parables

- What question is this parable answering?
- What does this parable teach about God and his kingdom?
- How will I respond to His teaching?
- What did Jesus intend with this teaching?

Here is an example of Jesus using a parable (others refer to this as a **proverb**) to define his mission and to define our mission as Christians.

(SLIDE 19) Luke 5:30-32 - (**The parable of the doctor/Physician**) In other words, Jesus is for those who are lost and those who need him. If you are a sinner and need repentance, Jesus wants to cleanse you and free you from sin.

In Jesus' day, eating together was a way of [developing and maintaining social boundaries](#). So meals were many times a way to establish and [reinforce one's position in family or in society](#). Matthew also known as Levi has just been called by Jesus to be a disciple. He takes Jesus home and throws a dinner party for Jesus and his disciples and invites his friends who are sinners and tax collectors.

This is typical evangelism right? When sinners meet Jesus [the flood gates open](#), they want their friends to know this same joy and fantastic feeling. So the Pharisees look at this situation and ask Jesus what kind of a religious guy are you? They are thinking ["birds of a feather flock together"](#) and Jesus should not be hanging out or eating with sinners if he says he is who he says he is.

We talk a lot about loving sinners and wanting to win the world, but we expect them to come to church in their [best behavior](#). We see them [smoking](#) or using the word ["right on brother"](#) in a sermon instead of ["amen"](#) and the church freaks out. We may accidentally hear them use a bad word and then ["ohhhh my goodness", we have to call a prayer meeting](#). The lesson here is that we must learn that the church is not a [hotel for the saints](#) but it is a [hospital for the sinners](#).

Jesus is driven by a [compassion for the sick](#). The Pharisee assesses the situation and is like "i am not touching that" and Jesus moves on to treatment. The sinners are sick and need to be helped.

What question is the parable answering? Why does Jesus spend time with sinners? What does the parable teach about Jesus'/God's kingdom? It is available to sinners. How will I respond to this parable? Be a missionary
What was Jesus' intention? To show love and care about those unlovable. Look at similar parables. [The Lost](#)

(SLIDE 20) - The parable of the lost sheep

The Jewish agricultural culture at this time has no problem relating to this parable. There are sheep all around them and everyone [understands that sheep get lost sometimes](#). Sheep wander around sometimes grazing here and there and they get lost. Looking for a lost sheep was usually a group effort and they [understood the joy of finding a lost sheep](#) especially since they were valuable. They typically even named the sheep and so there was a [tender relationship](#) between the sheep and the Shepard. So he would leave his flock of sheep with others watching over them and will go and search everywhere for the lost sheep. When he finds it he would proudly carry it [over his shoulders](#).

If it is then natural to look for a lost sheep how natural would it be for GOD to look for lost people. Jesus is doing exactly what we would expect God to do - [seeking and saving the lost](#).

There is joy in finding what was lost and it is natural for a human as it is natural for God. Even if you had 2,000 dollars in the bank, and you lost a 20 dollar bill you will look for it because [it is still valuable to you](#) even though you have 2,000 in the bank.

All God's people are precious to him and [there is joy in heaven when a lost soul is saved](#). God is patient with us and does not want anyone to perish but wants us all to come to repentance. That is what 2 Peter 3:9 says.

(SLIDE 21) - The parable of the lost coin

(SLIDE 22) - The prodigal son

[New Cloth and New Wine](#)

(SLIDE 23) - [Luke 5:34-39](#)

So again the Pharisees confront Jesus with a question that they hope he will answer wrongly according to the law. The [Pharisees](#) (religious group also heavily involved in politics, kept the law and considered themselves experts of the written law) and [Scribes](#) (experts of the written word who were officially [schooled](#) and trained on the law) and [Sadducees](#) (another religious group and their name meant "[righteous ones](#)" as they claimed descent from one of King David's co-priests) are seeing their importance in society dwindle because Jesus is here and there is really nothing or nobody greater than him. [Sanhedrin](#) was also another [71 member council](#) which functioned as the [central judicial authority](#) of the Jews and they sought the arrest of Jesus.

Here they had just told Jesus that he is wrong because his disciples do not fast like they do and like the disciples of John did. Jesus' response is [insightful and logical](#). He says, when the [bridegroom](#) is around it is not time to fast but it is time to celebrate. And then he wisely reminds them what John whom they are quoting said in (SLIDE 24) [John 3:29](#) that Jesus is the bridegroom. (SLIDE 25) [Back to out text](#) Jesus' ministry was a time of joy and celebration. However, soon the disciples will grieve over the loss of Jesus and here [Jesus is talking about the cross](#). Then that will be a time of [mourning](#) and [fasting](#).

He then talks about cloth and wine saying [inappropriate action can cause destruction](#). There is a time for [rejoicing](#) and there is a time for [fasting](#). If you tear a new shirt to fix an old shirt, you have ruined the new shirt. If you take new wine and put it in old wine skins, the skins burst and they are ruined.

He is saying the new does not fit the old. [You cannot take the new teaching of Jesus and cram it into the old legalistic teachings of the Pharisees especially as outlined by the Pharisees](#). Both will be ruined and Jesus here is calling for a change.

Notice verse 39, Jesus tells us that we tend to prefer the old to the new. Generally old wine is better but with [His kingdom the new \(gospel\) is better than the old \(law\)](#). We tend to feel more comfortable with the law than with [grace](#). Follow him and have freedom in him because with the law we are certain to fail because we all break it.
