

Lesson 14- Luke 10:21-11:28

Jesus Prays, The Good Samaritan, Martha and Mary, Prayer, Jesus and Beelzebul.

This chapter includes three stories that do not appear anywhere else in the New Testament. The parable of the Good Samaritan, the story of Martha and Mary, and the story of a man who at midnight asks a friend for bread, are all unique to Luke. Notice what these stories say about Christian life, duty and priorities. Also note the mention of women by name and the emphasis on prayer in this lesson.

1. Read Luke 10:21-23 and CCC #253. What does the prayer of Jesus reveal about the nature of God? How is this different from what the Pharisees and Scribes believed about the nature of God?

Luke 10:21-23 ²¹ At that very moment he rejoiced [in] the holy Spirit and said, "I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. ²² All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him." ²³ Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

CCC 253- *The Trinity is One.* We do not confess three Gods, but one God in three persons, the "consubstantial Trinity". The divine persons do not share the one divinity among themselves but each of them is God whole and entire: "The Father is that which the Son is, the Son that which the Father is, the Father and the Son that which the Holy Spirit is, i.e. by nature one God." In the words of the Fourth Lateran Council (1215), "Each of the persons is that supreme reality, viz., the divine substance, essence or nature."

2. Read again, Luke 10:21-23 and footnotes. Who is Jesus referring to as "the wise and the learned?" Who are the "childlike" in these verses and what does Jesus mean here?

3. Read Luke 10:24-37 and footnotes. A man in this story approaches Jesus with a question. Who is this man and what does he *really* want to know?

How does Jesus' initial response change the focus *from* Jesus and back to the questioner?

Luke 10:24-37 ²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" ²⁷ He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" ²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." ²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' ³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" ³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

4. Check the footnotes again for the parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37). What is significant about the *actions and identity* of the first two men in the story? Who is the hero in the parable and what about his identity would surprise a Jewish audience?

5. Read Luke 10:38-41 and footnotes. In the story of the Good Samaritan, love of God and love of neighbor are *priorities* that rise above *even* the duties of a priest or Levite on the Sabbath! In the story of Martha and Mary what activity takes priority in this “Christian” household? Which activities are secondary? During the Christmas season, what lesson can we take away from this?

Luke 10:38-41³⁸ As they continued their journey, he entered a village where a woman whose name was Martha welcomed him. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary [who] sat beside the Lord at his feet listening to him speak. ⁴⁰Martha, burdened with much serving, came to him and said, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me by myself to do the serving? Tell her to help me.” ⁴¹The Lord said to her in reply, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. ⁴²There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.”

6. Read Luke 11:1-13 and footnotes. What is meant by “daily bread in vs 3?” What is the lesson or moral of the story in verses 11:5-9? What does verse 11:13 mean?

Luke 11:5-8⁵ And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,’ ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,’ ⁷and he says in reply from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.’ ⁸I tell you, if he does not get up to give him the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his **persistence**. ⁹“And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; **knock and the door will be opened to you**. ¹⁰For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? ¹²Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? ¹³If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will the Father in heaven give the holy Spirit to those who ask him?”**

7. Read Luke 11:14-28 and footnotes. What is the miracle that Jesus performs in these verses? What false accusation is levied against Jesus in Luke 11:14-15? Why was this a particularly evil accusation?

8. What do we learn about Satan, demons, and Jesus from Luke 11:17-22?

9. Looking again at Luke 11:14-28, how do we know that not *everyone* believed the accusations made against Jesus?

10. Choose one verse in this lesson that is inspirational or memorable to you. Share it with your group.