

Week 13 Psalm 24, Luke 16-20, Psalm 25

Psalm 24 — David answers two crucial questions, who can stand in God's presence, and who is the King of Glory? **How does this psalm answer them?**

Luke 16— This chapter challenges us about our attitude toward and use of material possessions, as He tells us the parable of the Dishonest Manager, and the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus. The incompetent manager is found out and is about to be fired. In order to prepare for his future after losing his job, he dishonestly cuts deals with his master's creditors and is commended by his master for his astuteness. Jesus warns us to be faithful stewards of our material possessions and not to make them a god. Jesus touches on marriage and divorce (vv. 1-18). Our Lord ends the chapter with a story about a selfish rich man and a beggar named Lazarus who was sitting at his gate. Both of them died, and Lazarus went to Abraham's side, and the rich man was in torment in Hades (vv. 19-31). ***What does the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus teach us about the afterlife? Why would a loving God send people to hell?***

Luke 17— For the third time in the book of Luke it says that Jesus and those with Him are "traveling to Jerusalem" on His last journey (v. 11). The topics covered in His teaching are varied. We are not to cause others, including little ones, to sin. If someone sins against us we are to forgive them even up to seven times a day. We will do great things for God if we even have the faith the size of a mustard seed. We are to obey our master with a servant's heart and not expect extra praise (vv. 1-10). Ten lepers are healed but only one, a Samaritan, returns with a heart of gratitude (vv. 11-19). In answer to the question by the Pharisees, Jesus talks about the coming of the kingdom of God, His present kingdom, and His second coming to earth (vv. 20-37). ***What attitudes should His followers have when they serve Christ (vv. 7-10)?***

Luke 18— Jesus tells a parable of the Persistent Widow in order to encourage His flock to always be praying, knowing that God the Father, unlike the evil judge, will swiftly grant justice to His elect (vv 1-8). He then gives a parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, showing that not pride and self-righteousness, but humility and repentance lead to salvation (vv. 9-14). Jesus encourages the little children to come to Him, and He teaches that we must approach Him like a little child. The rich young ruler comes to Jesus to find out how to inherit eternal life, and Jesus tells him that the one thing he lacks is to sell everything he has, give it to the poor, and follow Him (vv. 15-29). Preparing His disciples for His impending death, Jesus privately tells them He will soon suffer, die, and be raised again the third day, but they don't understand it. Drawing near to Jericho, a blind beggar cries out to Jesus to have mercy on him and he receives his sight (30-42). 1. What does the parable of the Persistent Widow teach us about prayer and God the Father? Do we really believe this? 2. In the meeting of Jesus and the rich young ruler, answer the following questions; (1) ***what did Jesus mean by, "Why do you call me good? No one is good—except God alone,"*** (2) ***What commandments were the rich young ruler continually breaking?***(3) ***Do we have to sell all in order to have eternal life?***

Luke 19— While Jesus and His team pass through Jericho, He finds a short tax collector by the name of Zacchaeus in a sycamore tree trying to see Him. Upon seeing him in the tree, Jesus invites Himself to lodge at his home, and Zacchaeus joyfully accepts and is drastically changed because of His visit (vv. 1-10). As the whole group was nearing Jerusalem, they all thought this was the time for Jesus to take charge as Messiah and free Israel from Rome's tyranny. Jesus tells

them a parable about a nobleman who would not immediately take over the kingdom, but would go away and leave his 10 servants each with a mina (3 month's wage). Upon his return after receiving the kingdom, the servants had to give account of their investment to the king (vv. 11-27). This last week before His death, Jesus enters into great conflict with the religious leaders who do everything possible to find a way to kill Him. Jesus mounts a young donkey, crosses the Mount of Olives, and comes into Jerusalem with the shouts and praises of the people. Jesus weeps over the city knowing what would happen to it because of their rejection of Him. Arriving at the temple complex, He throws out those selling animals (vv. 28-48). **1. What can we learn from Jesus on how to evangelize from the story of Zacchaeus? 2. As a King's servant, you have been given resources to use in Christ's kingdom. What resources do you have, and how should you invest them for the kingdom?**

Luke 20— Jesus is in His last few days before the cross, and so the chief priests, scribes, and elders join in with the Pharisees to do everything possible to kill Him. Jesus refuses to respond to them when asked what His source of authority was. He gives them the parable of the Evil Farmers, and they understand He is talking about them, and they are extremely angry (vv. 1-19). Now, even more offended and anxious to arrest Him, they try to trap Him in His own words by asking Him if it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not. Jesus amazed them with His answer (vv. 20-26). Then the Sadducees who reject the resurrection give Him a hypothetical case of a woman whose seven husbands died one right after the other. "In the resurrection, whose wife will the woman be?" Jesus made it clear that there would be no marriage in resurrection and then cited Moses to prove there was a resurrection. Then Jesus turns on the religious leaders asking them a difficult question about the relationship of David and the Messiah from Psalm 110:1 (vv. 27-47). In verses 41 to 44, **what was Jesus teaching them about the Messiah? Extra Question: What kind of authority did the priests and teachers respect and think Jesus should have had (verse 2)?**

Psalms 25—David longs to know God better. Discontent with his current level of awareness, he begs for more of God. **What will God do for the person who fears Him (vv. 12-14)?**

Week 14 Psalm 26, Luke 21-24, John 1, Psalm 27

Psalm 26— David’s love for God runs deep, to his very core. His love runs so deep that David dares God to test him. That’s a bold request, but it is driven by an insatiable desire to please God. We would want to know if anything we’re doing displeases our Lord. **What can we do to cultivate a deeper relationship with God?**

Luke 21— The poor widow is credited by Jesus for her generosity because although she has only two small coins, she gave them to the temple offering. Jesus predicted the time when the temple would be destroyed. A person asked about what would be the sign when these things are about to take place. Jesus then talks about future events that will happen before His second coming. He talks about future wars, horrible acts of nature, and also great persecution for His followers as they valiantly testify for Him. Jesus then says He will come when we see signs in the sun, moon, and stars and anguish on earth among the nations. Jesus then tells the parable of the fig tree and the other trees. He then gives a warning to be alert for the great judgment that comes to all who live on the earth. **What is the “times of the Gentiles” mentioned in verse 24?**

Luke 22— The Jewish leaders had determined that they must get rid of Jesus because He was becoming more and more confrontational about their evil practices. They are overjoyed that Judas was breaking rank and willing to betray the Lord. Jesus sends Peter and John to go and prepare for the Passover in a large upper room (vv. 1-13). Jesus inaugurates the Lord’s Supper with His disciples and points out that one of them will betray Him. Our Lord corrects the disciples on their dispute about who is the greatest among them, but assures them they will eat and drink at His table in the kingdom (vv. 14-30). Jesus tells Peter of his denial of Him, but Peter can’t believe he would do such a thing. Leaving the upper room, Jesus brings His disciples to the Mount of Olives where He prays that, if the Father wills, He will take away this cup of suffering from Him. Awakening His disciples, Judas and the mob come to arrest Jesus and take Him away to the high priest’s house where Peter denies that he knows Jesus, and the temple guards mock and beat Him. Upon hearing from Jesus that He is the Son of God, the Jewish leaders have the evidence they need to accuse Him of blasphemy, and then bring Him to Pilate (vv. 31-71). **What ungodly or worldly attitudes do you see in the disciples in this chapter? See verses 23-46. Extra Question: What are the three interpretations of the meaning of the commemoration of the Lord’s Supper in the Christian church? What do you believe, and why do you believe it?**

Luke 23— The assembly of Jewish leaders take Jesus to Pilate accusing Him of subverting the nation, but neither Pilate nor Herod Antipas can find any grounds to charge Him (vv. 1-16). Pilate tried to liberate Jesus, offering to release Him instead of the evil Barabbas, but religious leaders would have none of it. Because of the continual cries of the mob to crucify Jesus, Pilate gave Him over to their will and delivered Him up to be crucified (17-25). As Jesus was led away towards the place called “The Skull” (Golgotha/Calvary), He speaks to the women who are mourning His crucifixion. Jesus is hanged between two criminals and forgives those who participated in His crucifixion. Some were taunting Him to come off the cross and save Himself if He truly was the Messiah. Jesus promised one criminal that he would be with Him in paradise that very day after giving his request to remember him when Jesus comes into His kingdom (vv. 26-43). At three in the afternoon, after three hours of darkness, Jesus cries with a loud voice and dies. Joseph of Arimathea asks Pilate for the body of Jesus and hurries to wrap Him in fine linen,

and place Him in the tomb before the Sabbath begins at sundown (vv. 44-56). As we meditate on the story of the criminal (thief) that believed on Jesus, *what lessons are we taught about salvation and forgiveness? Extra Question: What did Jesus mean by the words (Verse 31), “For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when the wood is dry?”*

Luke 24— The bleakness and blackness of Christ’s death on Friday is gradually transformed into extreme joy and celebration upon the discovery that Jesus had risen from the dead. As the women of Galilee go to the tomb early Sunday morning to prepare His body, two angels announce to them the resurrection of Jesus. The women return to the apostles to tell them the good news, but their words seemed like nonsense to them (vv. 1-12). As two of the disciples head home to the village of Emmaus for the evening, Jesus began to walk along with them without them recognizing Him. Their hearts burn within them as He unfolds the Old Testament scriptures about the need of the Messiah to suffer and die. After their eyes were opened as to who Jesus was, he disappeared from their sight, and they returned to the apostles in Jerusalem (vv. 13-35). Jesus then appears to the whole group in the upper room showing them the marks of His crucifixion, and opening up to them their understanding of the scriptures concerning His suffering, resurrection, and their mission to proclaim the gospel (vv. 36-53). Part two of this book is to be continued by Luke as the book of Acts. *1. Why is the resurrection of Jesus the key to our faith? 2. How was the resurrected body of Jesus the same as our body, and how was it different?*

it, and be born again. At the same time this gospel is so profound that the greatest theologians cannot fully plumb its depths. Our Lord Jesus Christ is declared to be God, the creator of the world, and the great “I am”. This gospel was written by John in approximately 80 AD and gives a great deal of new material about Christ’s life that the Synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) had not previously given. John 20:31 declares the purpose of the book, which is for the reader’s to believe on Christ Jesus and have eternal life. The great themes of this book are; Jesus the Eternal Word, the new birth, the relationship of Jesus with the Father, the seven “I am” teachings of Jesus, resurrection of Lazarus, the great discourses of Jesus, the teaching of Jesus on the Holy Spirit, and His death and resurrection. This book is powerful and life transforming.

John 1— In this grand prologue, there is no doubt of who Jesus Christ is. He is declared to be the eternal, preexistent creator and now incarnate Word, who brings light and life to all who believe and receive Him. This unique Son, who fully reveals His heavenly Father, tabernacle among us and gave grace and truth, thus making us children of God through faith in Him (vv. 1-18). First, John the Baptist gives a testimony that he is not the messiah or Elijah but one who is called to prepare the way for the messiah who is Jesus Christ (vv. 19-34). Then, John the Apostle gives the testimonies of five of the disciples, who declare that Jesus truly is the Messiah (vv. 35-51). *What does this chapter say and what words describe the person and work of Jesus Christ?*

Psalms 27— This Psalm celebrates the protection of God. Like David we can have confidence in God’s sovereignty and provision, even in the midst of persecution. **What is the one thing that David would seek above all? Is that your desire also? Really?**

Week 15 Psalm 28, John 2-6, Psalm 29

Psalm 28— This psalm is a petition for protection when God judges the wicked. It is a request for mercy, not based upon merit, but upon God’s favor toward those who seek Him. **What does this psalm teach us about God?**

John 2— Jesus and His disciples go to Cana of Galilee to a wedding feast, and He performs His first miracle by changing the water into wine (vv. 1-12). Jesus travels to Jerusalem for the Passover and in the temple finds merchants selling animals for sacrifice as well as money changers. Making a whip from some ropes, He drives all of them out of the temple, being righteously angry for their changing His Father’s house into commercial profiteering instead of a Holy temple for worship and prayer (vv. 13-22). Although many believed on Jesus, He didn’t entrust Himself to them (vv. 23-25). Verse 24 says, “Jesus would not entrust Himself to them.” ***What did Jesus know about these people that believed on Him?***

John 3— The most famous verse in the Bible is found in this chapter (3:16). A Pharisee and leader of the Jews named Nicodemus visits Jesus by night to have a dialogue on spiritual matters. Jesus quickly makes it plain that the only way to see the kingdom of God is through spiritual birth. After a life-long belief in salvation by human effort, Nicodemus finds it hard to believe this new teaching of Christ. Using the illustration of Moses lifting up the snake on a pole in the wilderness, Jesus make it clear that those who look to Him for salvation and believe in Him will have eternal life (vv. 1-21). The disciples of John the Baptist tell him that Jesus is now becoming very popular and everyone is flocking to Him. John says that as the groom’s friend, he is filled with joy because of His increased following (vv. 22-30). The chapter ends with a powerful statement against those who teach universalism. “The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who refuses to believe in the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.” ***1. What did Jesus mean when He told Nicodemus that “no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and of the Spirit.”? 2. Read John 3:14-18, 36. Using these verses only, how would you explain the gospel to another person, including the consequences of not believing?***

John 4— While traveling through Samaria to get to Galilee, Jesus and His disciples stop at Jacob’s well in Sychar. The disciples went to town to buy food and Jesus had a conversation with a woman of Samaria at the well. Jesus peaks her interest by first asking for water, and then tells her about living water she can have if she comes to Him (vv. 1-26). Jesus declares that His food is the winning of lost souls and challenges His men to make themselves aware of the great harvest of souls. The Samaritan woman brings many from Sychar to hear Jesus and they believe on Him, calling Him the Savior of the world (vv. 27-45). A royal officer (most likely a high ranking civil or military Gentile under Herod Antipas) came to Jesus in Cana, pleading for Him to come to Capernaum to heal his son who was dying. The officer believed Jesus when He said, “Your son will live.” The next day it was confirmed that his son was indeed healed that very hour he believed Christ’s words (46-54). **Read verse 24. What does it mean to worship God “in spirit and in truth”?**

John 5— Returning to Jerusalem for one of the three Jewish festivals, Jesus heals a man who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years. When Jesus commanded him to get up, take up his mat

and walk, the man was instantly healed. From the time that Jesus healed this man on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began persecuting Him (vv. 1-15). Jesus then begins to declare his relationship and equality with the Father in one of the strongest Christological discourses in the Bible (vv. 16-30). To back up His statements about His person, deity, and sovereignty, Jesus gives several witnesses (vv. 31-46). After reading verses 19 to 30, ***What are the seven declarations Jesus gave about His relationship and equality with the Father? Extra Question: The Old and New testaments clearly say that two or three witnesses are needed to put a man to death or to discipline a church member (Deuteronomy 17:6, Matthew 18:16). Who or what are the five witnesses to the identity of Jesus as the Son of God (vv. 31-47)?***

John 6— This chapter begins with Jesus feeding the 5000 (plus women and children) through the multiplication of five loaves and two fish. After experiencing this phenomenal miracle, the people try to take Jesus by force and make Him king, but He would have none of it (vv. 1-15). Getting into a boat that evening to cross over to

Capernaum, a mighty storm arose and Jesus comes to them walking on the water and calms the sea (vv. 16-21). In order to thin out the huge crowd of people, Jesus gives some very hard sayings as well as some very deep words regarding salvation and sovereignty. Knowing that the crowd was searching for Him because they had a full stomach, Jesus challenges the crowd to desire the food that lasts for eternal life which He provides to all who believe on Him (vv. 22-40). Jesus continues the same theme as in the previous verses by repeating that He is the bread of life (v. 48). Our Lord speaks of eating His flesh and drinking His blood in order to have eternal life. Because of these difficult words many left Him. He made it clear to His disciples that He was not talking about a literal eating of His flesh but spiritually believing in His sacrificial death for them (vv. 41-71). Read verses 26 to 58. This passage includes many promises linked with our relationship with Jesus. ***How many spiritual benefits can you find in these verses because of our relationship with Christ.***

Psalms 29— The psalmist describes the awesome power and glory of Yahweh in creation and nature, His supremacy over everything and everyone on earth and in the universe, and our need to acknowledge His unsurpassable majesty and the honor due Him. **Give the different ways the power and sovereignty of the Lord is revealed in this psalm.**

Week 16 Psalm 30, John 7-11, Psalm 31

Psalm 30 — “...weeping may endure for a night but rejoicing comes in the morning”. We all have seasons of trouble, but God sees us through the hardship, turning our “wailing into dancing”. Therefore we sing praises to Him who is faithful, trustworthy and holy. **Describe a time of mourning in your life where God been with you through it.**

John 7— As Jesus nears the time of His crucifixion, the antagonism of the Jewish leaders grows stronger. Because of this danger, Jesus quietly goes to Jerusalem in the middle of the seven-day Feast of the Tabernacles (Booths). His unbelieving earthly brothers urged Him to show Himself openly (vv. 1-13). The Jews were amazed at His ability to expound the scriptures, but Jesus made it clear that His teaching come from His Father, not from Himself. Because of their denunciation of Him for healing on the Sabbath, Jesus accuses the Jews of not making righteous judgment, but of judging according to outward appearances (vv. 14-24). Although the authorities wanted to arrest and kill Jesus, no one could lay a hand on Him because His hour had not come. Jesus invites all who are spiritually thirsty to come and drink, and streams of living water will flow deep from within them. Because of their ignorance of the birth and lineage of Jesus, the Jews argued that the Messiah couldn’t come from Galilee (vv. 25-52). Verses 8 and 30 said concerning Jesus, His “time had not yet come.” ***What would happen when His time did come? How does this speak to God’s guidance and timing of the events of our lives?***

John 8— The chapter opens with the story of the women caught in the act of adultery. Although verses 7:53-8:11 are not found in the earliest manuscripts, they are in full “harmony with the character of Jesus and His opponents.. The evil hearts of the scribes and Pharisees and the wisdom, mercy, and compassion of Christ is displayed in this story (vv. 1-11). Jesus asserts strong declarations about Himself such as; “I am the light of the world, I and the Father who sent Me judge together, and, if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins (vv.12-30).” Jesus shows to those who believe and trust in Him that it is important to continue in obedience to His word, since it will reveals that they truly are His disciples. As they become His disciples they will possess real freedom. Jesus asserts that the Jewish leaders were not spiritually of Abraham, but in reality were children of the Devil, because of their rejection of Him and the truth He was speaking. Finally, Jesus says that He was even alive 2000 years earlier during Abraham’s time. Then, He unmistakably states that He is the “I am” of the Bible at which point the Jews picked up stones to kill Him, but He was hidden from them. ***After reading verses 30 to 32, what is the evidence and result of being Christ’s disciple? How has Christ set you free? Is there any area of your life you are still in bondage? Extra question: Verse 59 says that the Jews picked up stones to kill Jesus. What motivated them to do this?***

John 9— After putting mud on his eyes, Jesus tells the man born blind from birth to go wash in the pool of Siloam. Upon obedience to Christ’s words, He comes back seeing. The former blind man then begins to tell everyone what had happened, including the Pharisees. The Jewish leaders interrogate the former blind man and his parents to see if he really had been born blind from birth and how he received his sight. After repeating again exactly what happened to him, the frustrated man made some strong statements against the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. Not accepting his sharp rebuke, the leaders excluded him from the temple (vv. 1-34). When Jesus found the man and revealed Himself to him, the healed man then declares his faith in Christ (vv. 35-41). ***After reading this chapter, what insights do you see in the godly responses of the blind man (vv. 7,***

25, 30, 38)? *Extra Question: What principle about the way God judges do we see in verse 41? See Luke 12:47-48, Romans 2:12-16.*

John 10— In this chapter we see a beautiful picture of Jesus as the good shepherd and the door of the sheep. Jesus is contrasted with robbers and thieves that come only to kill, steal, and destroy. The sheep know and respond to the voice of the real Shepherd, and this Shepherd lays down His life for them (vv. 1-21). During the Festival of Dedication (Hanukkah) in the wintertime, Jesus returns to the temple complex and again clearly tells the Jews that He is the Messiah, one with the Father. Upon hearing this, the Jews take up rocks to stone Him because of His so-called blasphemy of making Himself God, but He again eludes them (vv. 22-42). *What does Jesus, the Good Shepherd, do for the sheep, and how do the sheep respond to the Shepherd (vv. 1-18)? Extra Question: When people are truly born again, can they ever lose their salvation (vv. 27-29)? Give other Biblical evidence.*

John 11— Jesus receives a message from the sisters of Lazarus that he is gravely sick, and they urge Him to come soon to heal him before he dies. To show His power to resurrect the dead, Jesus waited two days before leaving for Bethany (vv. 1-16). Jesus arrives at Bethany and comforts first Martha and then Mary as they profess their faith in Him as the Messiah, but share their disappointment that He hadn't come earlier so that Lazarus wouldn't have died. Upon seeing the grief of His friends and knowing what a great enemy death is, Jesus became angry and was moved to the point of tears (vv. 17-37). Over Martha's objection, Jesus calls for the removal of the large stone that was in front of the tomb, speaks, and Lazarus comes out of the grave alive (vv. 38-44). The resurrection of Lazarus caused many to believe on Him, but others went to the Pharisees to tell what had happened. The Jewish leaders decided that Jesus must be killed in order to save the nation, and then charges anyone who finds Him to immediately tell them so they can arrest Him (vv. 45-57). *1. What did Jesus mean by His answer to the disciples when they feared His being killed in Jerusalem (vv. 8-10)? 2. What astonishing promise did Jesus make to those who believe on Him (vv. 25-26)?*

Psalm 31 — David is besieged by enemies who sought his destruction, and abandoned by friends not willing to share his fate. His only and best recourse was prayer. Jesus also identifies with this Psalm quoting verse 5 as He draws His final breath (Luke 23:46). If you find yourself mistreated and abandoned, you are in good company. **What is David's petition? (Hint: look for "me") Was it answered?**