

Luke's Gospel – An Inclusive Savior Lesson Seventeen

Introductions:

Eschatology - "about the last things" or study about the end of time

Parousia – "coming" and "presence" - often refers to the Second Coming of Christ.

[Luke 17:20-37].....The Kingdom of God

vs.20-21

All Pharisees longed for the coming Kingdom of God - contains peace, love, deliverance, freedom, healing, etc.

Many thought they would be able to calculate when God's kingdom would arrive

Jesus tells them that the kingdom of God is within them(or *among* them)

Wherever Jesus is, we have the kingdom of God. Pharisees miss this and Jesus points it out to them in Luke 12:56

NOTE: There is a strong transition between vs. 21 and vs. 22. Jesus explains the kingdom of God to the Pharisees as *being present*, but to the disciples he explains it as *coming*!

vs.22-24

There appears to be slight confusion on the part of the disciples:

1.)If the kingdom of God brings peace, deliverance, healing, etc., why are there still those who are suffering? When will it end?

2.)If the kingdom of God is here, is this all there is to it?

"...long to see one of the days of the Son of Man" - Jesus is saying that the *Parousia* is not going to be as soon as you think!

During this lengthy wait, many will SAY that they know who and where the Son of Man is.

The disciples (and us) are cautioned NOT to follow these sayings

The Second Coming of the Son of Man will be accompanied by the *suddenness* of lightening

vs.25

But, first things first: There cannot be an Easter without a Good Friday(nor) There cannot be a resurrection without a death

vs.26-29

The *Parousia* will come when things are normal for people

vs.30-35

On the day of the Second Coming of Christ, just let it happen

Any attempts to save anything or anyone are self-defeating for judgment will be very decisive and quick so that two people together will be separated without warning

vs.37

Jesus gives this proverb - "where there is a dead body, there the vultures will gather"

Vultures only arrive after their prey is dead or close to it - they are not hunters!

This means that the Parousia will be so fast that no one will see it coming; no one will know that it has happened until afterwards

NOTE: There is a formula for the Kingdom of God: already and not yet; with us now and still to come; at hand and will come. To choose to believe that the Kingdom of God is only in the future is to deny the benefits of God's Kingdom right now. We must take both.

[Luke 18:1-14].....The Power of Persistence and Humility

Vss.1-6 A “judge who neither feared God nor cared about people” is a bad judge. This widow is seeking justice from a judge whose last nerve she had found.

We get to hear the judge’s thoughts. He is tired of the widow’s persistence and gives her the justice she wants. He does the right thing for the wrong motive.

vss.7-8 We are God’s chosen ones.

NOTE: Although they may not have understood it, Jesus is preparing them for persecutions they will endure. He wants them to know God’s justice will be administered on their behalf.

“...when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

Vss.9-13 The lesson is humility. Luke gives insight into the thoughts of many who came to see Jesus and wanted to spend time with him: they “were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else...”.

The Pharisee gives God false gratitude.

The tax collector is penitent and can be because he is truthful and honest about who he is, and what he needed – mercy from God.

Vs.14 Luke’s point is that Jesus consistently challenges the expectations of people and forces them to see the world differently.

For Jesus to choose the tax collector as the one (*possibly whose prayer was heard*) who’s justified blew the minds of those listening.

[Luke 18:18-30].....It’s Possible with God

Vs.19 People are relatively good. Only God is absolutely good.

Vss.18-23 Understanding the commandments were not a challenge for this ruler, true application was.

vs.22 “one thing” rather than “the things you lack”. Jesus is direct, capable of pinpointing problems precisely.

He loved his wealth, and couldn’t let go of it.

Vss.24-25 This is said to illustrate an impossibility.

Vss.26-27 This impossibility prompts the question of salvation – who can get it and how. Only God can give it.

vss.28-29 The sacrifices we make in following Jesus are not in vain. Our needs are met as well as many of our wants. And eternal life is included in the package.

[Luke 18:31-34].....They Don’t Get It

Vss.31-34 Jesus tells them of his imminent future.

This is the first time the Gentiles or implicated in the death of Jesus.

The disciples don’t understand what Jesus is saying. This is Luke’s doing.

Luke wants to stress that there were things the disciples couldn’t know without the power of the Holy Spirit.

NEXT WEEK: Luke Chapter 19:11-48 (Please read 19:1-10 on your own.)