

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

“THE CALL OF GOD’S WORD”

For individual study or group discussion

Moving from last week’s study of the *Parable of the Four Soils*, we consider today, in verses 16-25, Jesus’ directives to the hearers, those who are beginning to grasp the secrets of the Kingdom of God. Jesus emphasizes their responsibility to make good use of the truth, sharing its light so that others may perceive (v. 16). The expression “light” prompts us to remember Zechariah’s *Benedictus* in *Luke* chapter 1, where he prophesized that the “sunrise of salvation” will come as the One who will “give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace” (Luke 1:78-79). In today’s passage, God’s Word calls us to carefully listen to Jesus, knowing that the “light has come” (Isaiah 60:1) to expose our hearts (v. 17).

- Read verses 16-17. What is the purpose of lighting a lamp and putting it on a stand?
- What happens when the Light shines through the life of his hearers? (cf. Matthew 5:14-16; Philippians 2:15; Ephesians 5:8-14)

Like a light that illuminates, God’s Word is meant to be shared with others. In verses 19-21, Luke points out that when we “hear the word of God and do it”, we reveal our family resemblance (v. 21). Being a part of God’s family is not simply a matter of claiming his name, but also doing “the will of the Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). The true family of God exhibits recognizable character traits (Galatians 5:22-23) that emanate from the work of the Spirit of God in us. (Romans 8:14-17)

- Read verse 21. What does Jesus teach about the importance of hearing and obeying God’s Word? How does it relate to verse 18?
- Who is Jesus’ true family? And how can we be Jesus’ true family? (cf. John 1:12-13; Romans 8:13-17; Galatians 3:26)

In verses 22-25, we see the disciples’ faith be put to the test as Jesus calls them to “cross to the other side of the lake” (v. 22). Note that even in Jesus’ request, he assures their arrival to the shore. Will they carefully listen and confidently rest in Christ’s promise? As the Savior sleeps during the storm, the disciples find no comfort that his slumber is a sign of his sovereign rule over the sea. But in the midst of the disciples’ unbelief, the Captain of their salvation silences the storm, showing us that it is not the strength of our faith that saves us, but the Object of our faith that accomplishes our salvation for us.

- Verses 22-25 are an object lesson about the importance of hearing and trusting the Word of God. What does verse 24 reveal to us about the power of God’s Word?
- How does God use the storms of life to teach us? Meditate on Psalm 121 and Isaiah 43:1-7. Take comfort that your Protector “will neither slumber nor sleep” amid life’s chaos.

The juxtaposition of the weariness of Jesus and his commanding power to silence the storm evidences Christ’s humanity and divinity, that he is truly man and truly God. Whether healing the sick, raising the dead, or calming the waves, our studies throughout *Luke* testify that Jesus is the Son of God and long-awaited Messiah.

- Read John 1:1-5. What five claims are being made about Jesus? Are these five claims consistent with Luke 8:16-25?
- Read Psalm 107:23-29. Discuss how it relates to Luke 8:22-25.

DATE: May 8, 2022

SPEAKER: Chad/Wil

SERIES: Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 8:16-25

Family Dinner Table

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

“It was the love of God in Christ that led Charles Wesley to write his famous hymn, *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*. Charles had joined his brother John on a mission to Georgia in the colonies in America. The trip had been a disappointment in nearly every respect. As the Wesleys sailed home to England in the fall of 1736, both of them disillusioned by the sufferings of the ministry, they were caught in a frightening storm out on the Atlantic Ocean. When it appeared that all would be lost, Charles did not pray for deliverance, but for the faith to trust in God and to encourage the other passengers on board. The sea grew calm, the ship was saved, and many people gave their lives to Jesus Christ. Afterwards, Wesley wrote:

*Jesus, Lover of my soul,
Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high;
Hide me, O my Savior hide
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last!*

Everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ has this comfort. Jesus has saved us through his death on the cross and his resurrection from the dead. He is sovereign over everything that threatens to harm us.”¹

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Grace+Peace Church, supported church plant in Ooltewah, TN

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Sergey, supported national partner, is serving in a sensitive region as pastor of a local church, and as the vice rector of an area seminary.