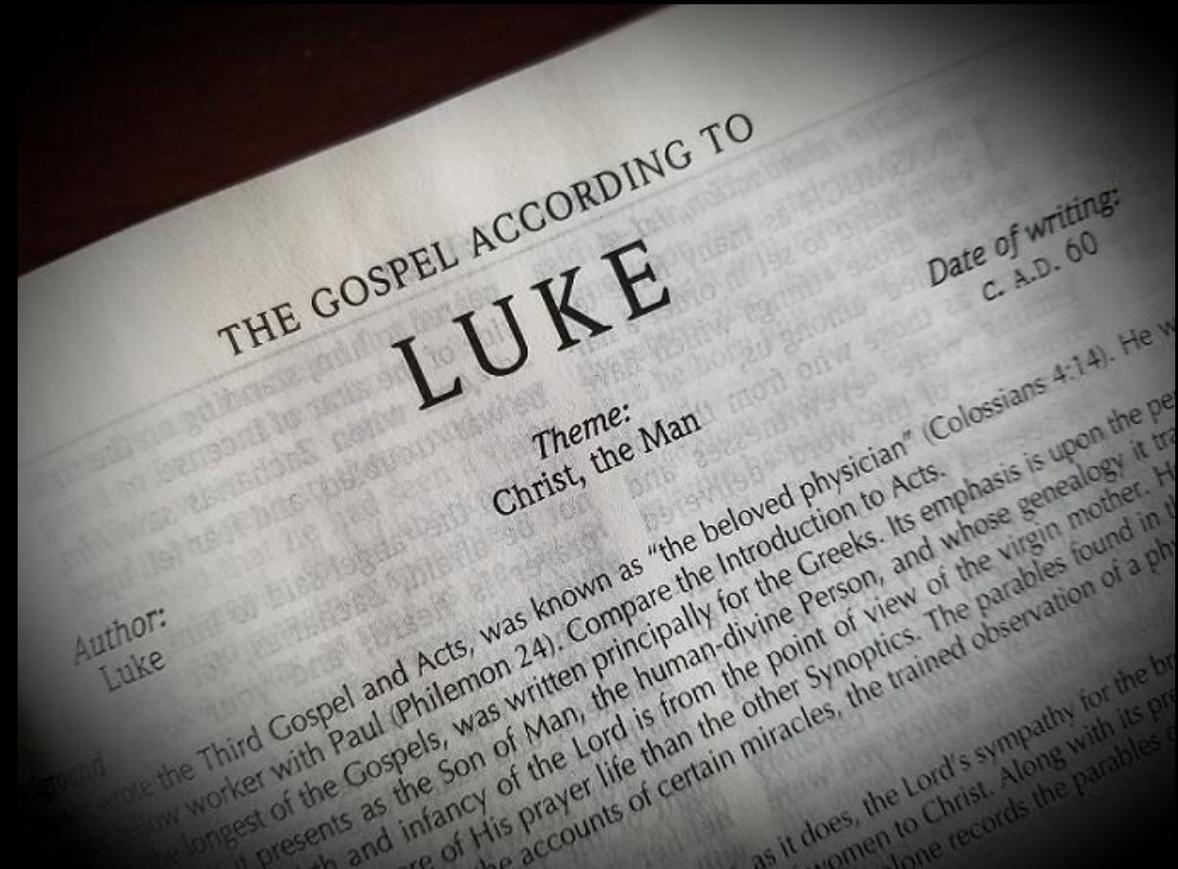


Verse by Verse

Luke 17



Previously in Luke

Previously in Luke

- Last week Jesus showed us our need to stay focused on eternity.
- Our time here meant to be our preparation for the life beyond.
- We saw the temporary nature of earthly riches.
- We also saw that suffering in this life can have immense value – if we allow it to lead us to God.

Luke 17 Key Verse

Luke 17 Key Verse

- Luke 17:10 (ESV)

So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, “We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.”

Luke 17 Introduction

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- This chapter is full of little encouragements from Jesus to nudge us along the path as his disciples.
- He will give us six different bits of instruction, all of which are easy enough for us to act upon.
- We will start each one with the word “Be.”

Luke 17 Outline

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1. Be Careful 17:1-2
2. Be Forgiving 17:3-4
3. Be Full of Faith 17:5-6
4. Be a Servant 17:7-10
5. Be Thankful 17:11-19
6. Be Ready 17:20-37

1. Be Careful 17:1-2

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- 17:1 Temptation to sin = *skandalon*
- Our word “scandal” obviously comes from this word.
- Mounce defines it as “stumbling block, obstacle, offense; anything that causes sin.”

1. Be Careful 17:1-2



1. Be Careful 17:1-2

- **17:2** We certainly don't want to be tripped up, but Jesus is focusing on the one doing the tripping.
- Sometimes we have to watch our behavior for the sake of others, not just ourselves.

1. Be Careful 17:1-2

- **17:2** We can trip up someone else, a newer believer, for example – one of these “**little ones.**”
- This can especially true when we exercise our “**freedoms**” in Christ.
- **Be Careful** that you do not lead others into sin.

2. Be Forgiving 17:3-4

2. Be Forgiving 17:3-4

- 17:3-4 Jesus uses an extreme example to show us just how important forgiveness is.
- Take note that forgiveness implies that your brother “sins against you.”

2. Be Forgiving 17:3-4

- 17:3-4 When we forgive we are not saying
 1. It doesn't matter.
 2. It doesn't hurt.
 3. It wasn't wrong.
- Probably sin against us will mean all of those things.

2. Be Forgiving 17:3-4

- 17:3-4 When we forgive **we are** saying, or *implying*,
 1. It was sin, which matters.
 2. It was against me, which hurts.
 3. It was wrong, but I am choosing not to retaliate or attempt to even the score.
 4. I am keeping in mind that I have been forgiven much by God already, so it is right for me to forgive.

2. Be Forgiving 17:3-4

- 17:3-4 I would also add a look at “if he repents.”
- Repentance of the sinner combined with forgiveness from the one sinned against, **reopens the relationship.**
- Forgiveness becomes the WD-40, which gets things unstuck between the two people.

2. Be Forgiving 17:3-4

- **17:3-4** Without repentance forgiveness is still a vital choice of the heart.
- This choice, with or without repentance, may have to be made repeatedly because the hurt can linger.
- Especially if the person is not repentant, the wound may be reopened again and again.
- **Be Forgiving.** Sin happens and happens to you.

3. Be Full of Faith 17:5-6

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- 17:5-6 A mustard seed is small and a mulberry tree is big, so Jesus really paints a picture here.
- Personal Story: The mulberry tree next door

3. Be Full of Faith 17:5-6

- Be Full of Faith because God answers prayer.

4. Be a Servant 17:7-10

4. Be a Servant 17:7-10

- Being a servant is just part of being a Christian.
- We get it from Jesus, who said,
- **Mark 10:45** (ESV)

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

4. Be a Servant 17:7-10

- **Philippians 2:5-8** (ESV)

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

4. Be a Servant 17:7-10

- Be a Servant so that you become more like Jesus.

5. Be Thankful 17:11-19

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- Only one out of ten came back to thank Jesus for the blessing that he had received.
- I wonder, would any of us would be that one?
- Or further, do we give thanks to God for one out of ten of the blessings that we receive from him?

5. Be Thankful 17:11-19

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV)

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- Ephesians 5:20

Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5. Be Thankful 17:11-19

- These lessons are the advanced class, but if you are like me, we need to go back to the story of the lepers.
- Remember to thank God for your blessings.
- That should be easy and yet we fail even there.
- **Be Thankful.** Focus on the blessings first.

6. Be Ready 17:20-37

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- **17:21** The Pharisees were looking for the kingdom without accepting the King.
- **17:24** When Christ finally returns to the earth to reign, no one will miss it.
- **17:25** First, Christ the King has to die, a fact that few were anticipating.

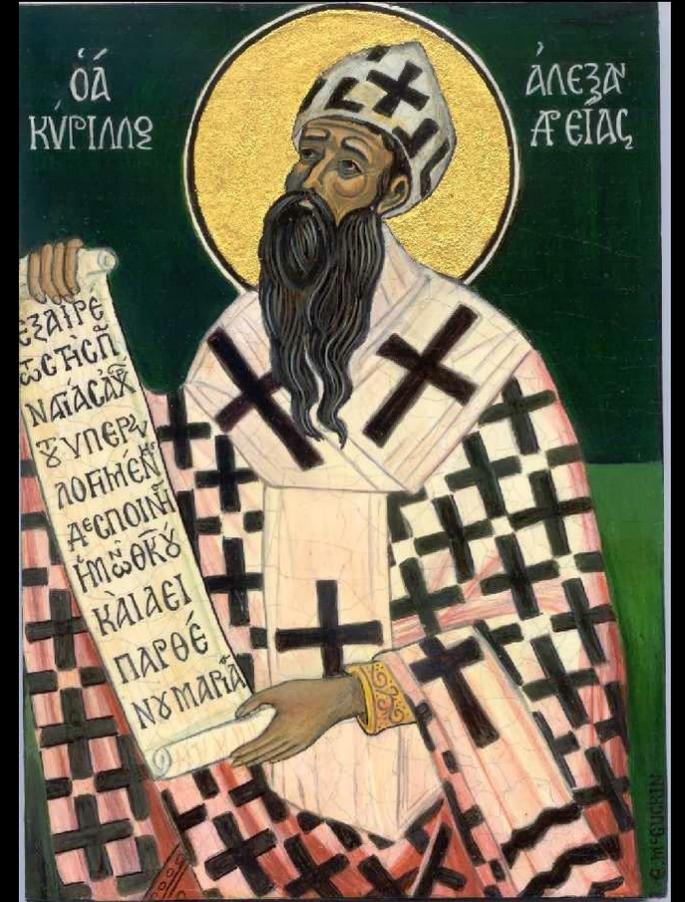
6. Be Ready 17:20-37

- 17:26-33 The main point here is to be ready.
- Two types of prophecies to account for:
 1. Life will go on business as usual until the very day that judgment comes.
 2. The times will be so terrible that they can hardly be described.

6. Be Ready 17:20-37

To show that he will appear unexpectedly and with no one knowing it, the Lord says that the end ... will come and be as it was in the days of Noah and Lot ... What does this signify? It signifies that he requires us to be always watchful and ready ... ²

– Cyril of Alexandria (376 – 444AD)



6. Be Ready 17:20-37

- Luke 21:25-28 (ESV)

²⁵ “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves,
²⁶ people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken ...

6. Be Ready 17:20-37

- Luke 21:25-28 (ESV)

²⁷ And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

6. Be Ready 17:20-37

- To balance the two types of prophecy, we can separate Christ's coming into two phases.
- The Rapture of the Church comes suddenly and unexpectedly when Christ comes **for his bride**.
- After seven years of trouble, Christ returns **with his bride** in an event that no one will be able to miss.

6. Be Ready 17:20-37

- 17:34-35 I connect these verses with the Rapture of the Church. To me that makes the most sense.
- Many who look forward to a Pre-Tribulation Rapture, still do not make this connection.
- Many others place the Rapture at a later point.

6. Be Ready 17:20-37

- **17:37** This question, “Where Lord?” seems to ignore Christ’s words in **v.23**.
- The answer Jesus gives sounds like a proverb or saying that might have been known to his audience.
- The best interpretation of its meaning may be, “When the time is right for judgment, then judgment will surely come.”

6. Be Ready 17:20-37

*The ... proverb is quite confusing, but it may mean that just as vultures know where carcasses are, so the world unmistakably will know when and where the Son of Man returns.*³

– Robert H. Stein, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



6. Be Ready 17:20-37

- You need not be an expert in eschatology (the study of “last things” in the Bible) to learn this lesson.
- Just remember how the Bible ends.
- Revelation 22:20-21 (ESV)

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

6. Be Ready 17:20-37

- **Be Ready.** Jesus is coming. Come Lord Jesus!

Luke 17 What We Just Read

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Luke 17 Key Points

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1. **Be Careful** that you do not lead others into sin.
2. **Be Forgiving.** Sin happens and happens to you.
3. **Be Full of Faith** because God answers prayer.
4. **Be a Servant** so that you become more like Jesus.
5. **Be Thankful.** Focus on the blessings first.
6. **Be Ready.** Jesus is coming. Come Lord Jesus!

Luke 17 Key Verse

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- Luke 17:10 (ESV)

So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, “We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.”

Luke 17 A Prayer

Luke 17 A Prayer

- Father in heaven,
- You have been more than generous, more than merciful and more than kind to us. As we learned so many things from Jesus this day, we want to ask the help of your Holy Spirit as we make an effort to put all of these lessons into practice.

Luke 17 A Prayer

- Help us to be careful, so that we do not lead others into sin. Help us to be forgiving, because we know that we sin ourselves. We also know that others will be certain to sin against us.
- Help us to be full of faith because we know that you answer prayer. Help us to be servants so that we all become more like Jesus.

Luke 17 A Prayer

- Help us to be thankful and focus on our blessings first. And finally, help us to be ready. The Bible tells us that Jesus is coming soon.
- Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus!
- In Christ,
- Amen

Luke 17 References

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3. Stein, R. H. (1992). *Luke: New American Commentary* (Vol. 24, p. 441). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.