

The Gospel of Luke

a verse-by-verse study

Session 24

Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



Simply teaching the Bible, simply

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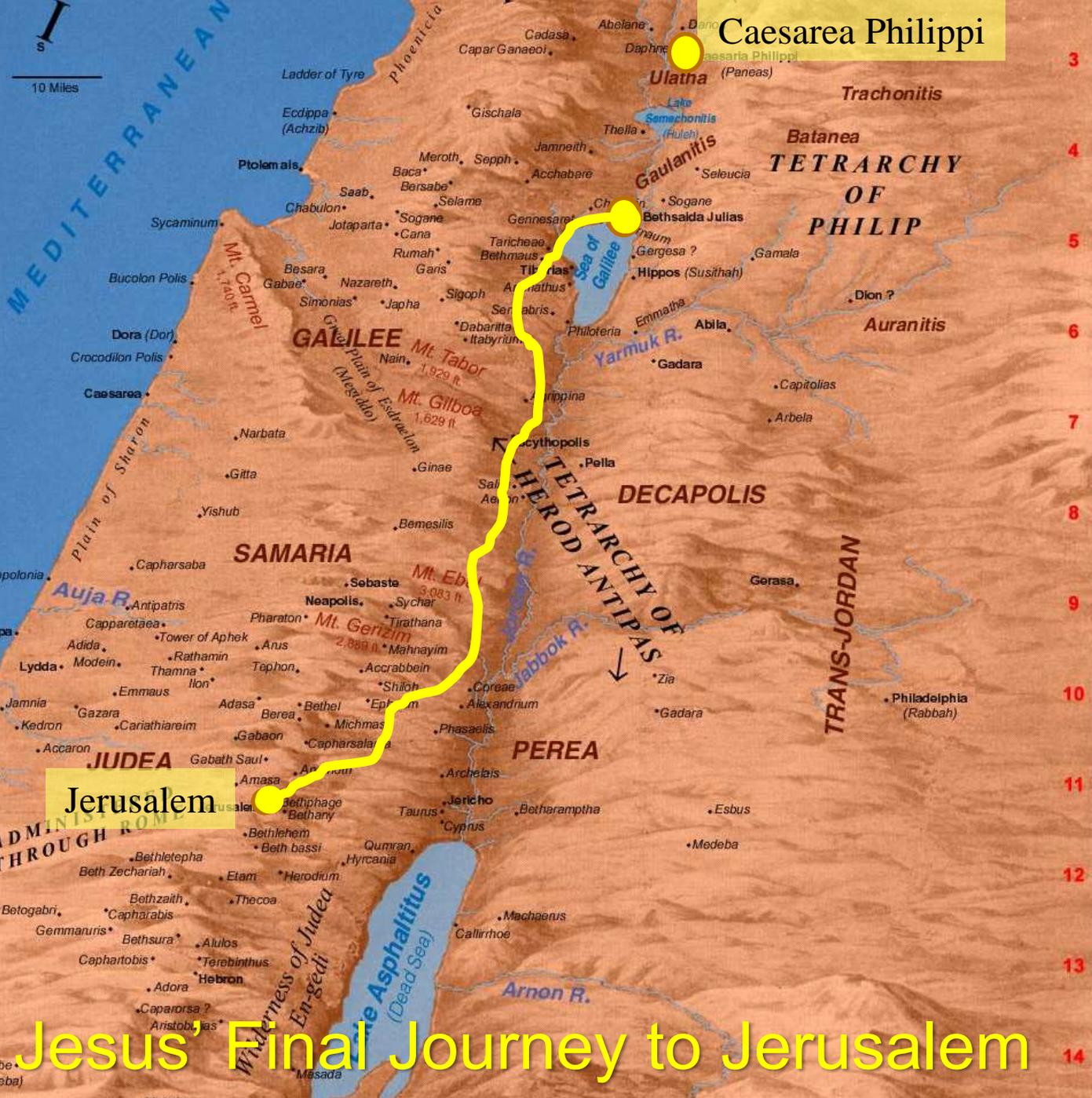
CHAPTER 14

Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



Simply teaching the Bible, simply

Caesarea Philippi



Jerusalem

Jesus' Final Journey to Jerusalem

¹ And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him.

Luke 14:1

- “Even though Jesus had some of His greatest disputes with the Pharisees, He still associated with them — not to be one of them, but to love them and show them a godly example” (Guzik)
- “The word used for watching is the word used for ‘interested and sinister espionage.’ Jesus was under scrutiny.” (Barclay)

2 And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy.

Luke 14:2

- “Probably the insidious Pharisee had brought this dropsical man to the place, not doubting that our Lord's eye would affect his heart, and that he would instantly cure him; and then he could most plausibly accuse him for a breach of the Sabbath. If this were the case, and it is likely, how deep must have been the perfidy and malice of the Pharisee!” (Clarke)

³ And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day?

⁴ And they held their peace. And he took him, and healed him, and let him go;

• M31 / H26

Luke 14:3-4

- “The arresting word is the word ‘answering.’ These men had said nothing, yet He answered them.” (Morgan)
 - *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”.* Hebrews 4:12

⁵ And answered them, saying, Which of you shall have an ass or an ox fallen into a pit, and will not straightway pull him out on the sabbath day?

⁶ And they could not answer him again to these things.

Luke 14:5-6

- They ‘could not answer’ without incriminating themselves and exposing their own hypocrisy!
- “Thus, while our Lord rebuked the wrong attitude and temper of these men, He did so by appealing to the best within them and calling them to be true to it. His purpose is not that of shaming men, but that of saving them.” (Morgan)

7 And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them,

8 When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him;

9 And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room

Luke 14:7-9

- Others before self!
- Pride comes before a fall! (Prov 11:2)

10 But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.

11 For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Luke 14:10-11

- How many Christian ministries embark on a program of self promotion?
- How many true ministries grow in the shade?
- *“Humble yourselves...”* **1 Peter 5:6**

Others May, You Cannot

- *If God has called you to be really like Jesus, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put upon you such demands of obedience, that you will not be able to measure yourself by other Christians; and in many ways, He will seem to let to let other good people do things which He will never let you do.*



G.D. Watson (1845-1924)

Others May, You Cannot

- *Other Christians and ministers, who seem very religious and useful, can push themselves, pull wires and work schemes to carry out their Christian goals, but these things you simply cannot do.*
- *Others may boast of their work or their writings or their success, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you ever try it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.*

G.D. Watson (1845-1924)



Others May, You Cannot

- *Others may be allowed to succeed in making money, but most likely God will keep you poor, because He wants you to have something far better than gold, namely, a helpless dependence on Him and the joy of seeing Him supply your needs day by day out of an unseen treasury.*
- *The Lord may let others be honoured and keep you hidden and unappreciated because He wants to produce some choice, fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade.*

G.D. Watson (1845-1924)



Others May, You Cannot

- *He may let others do a work for Him and get the credit for it, but He will make you work on and on without others knowing how much you are doing; and then, to make your work still more precious, He may let others get the credit for the work which you have done, and thus make your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes.*

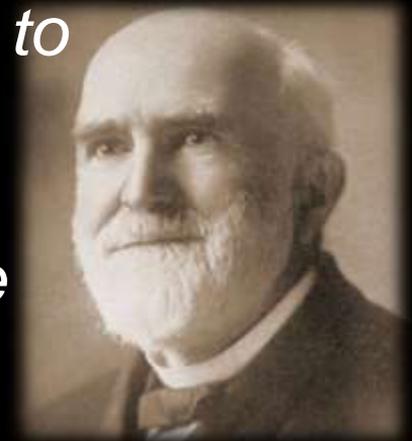


G.D. Watson (1845-1924)

Others May, You Cannot

- *The Holy Spirit will rebuke you for little words or deeds or even feelings, or for wasting your time, which other Christians never seem to be concerned about, but you must make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign and He has a right to do whatever He pleases with His own.*
- *He may not explain to you a thousand things which puzzle your reason in the way He deals with you, but if you will just submit yourself to Him in all things, He will wrap you up in a jealous love and bestow upon you many blessing which come only to those who are very near to His heart.*

G.D. Watson (1845-1924)



Others May, You Cannot

- *Settle it then, that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chaining your hand, or closing your eyes, in ways that He does not seem to use with others.*
- *Now, when you are so possessed with the living God that your secret heart becomes pleased and delighted with this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, then you will have entered the very vestibule of heaven itself.*



G.D. Watson (1845-1924)

12 Then said he also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee.

13 But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind:

14 And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at **the resurrection** **of the just.**

Luke 14:12-14

2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Daniel 12:2

- Daniel is told of the coming resurrections;
- Jesus spoke of the resurrection of the just
 - Luke 14:14
- ...and the resurrection of damnation
 - John 5:28-29

The Coming Resurrections

- 28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,
- 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

John 5:28-29

The Coming Resurrections

- According to the Apostle Paul, the resurrection of the just is not a single event, but rather a category comprised of various separate events:

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh *the end...*

1 Cor 15:20-24

The Coming Resurrections

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Revelation 20:4

The Coming Resurrections

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

Revelation 20:5

The Coming Resurrections

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Revelation 20:6

- Thus, the completion of the first resurrection and the 'resurrection unto damnation' are separated by a period of 1000 years during which time Christ will reign on the earth on the throne of David (Luke 1:32).

15 And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.

16 Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many:

Luke 14:15-16

- This 'great banquet' with the Messiah is spoken of many times in the Old Testament, and is known in the New Testament as the marriage supper of the Lamb
- Many are invited... first the Jews, then the gentiles... but few will respond to the invitation

17 And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

18 And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

Luke 14:17-18

- *“To accept the invitation beforehand and then to refuse it when the day came was a grave insult.”*
(Barclay)
- Once again it is the cares of this life that choke out the Word of God and cause people to miss out on God’s blessings!

19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.

Luke 14:19

- The deceitfulness of riches will also keep many from the kingdom of God
 - Both the blessing that can be known now and the future blessings
- This individual did not want to lose his investment
- We can gain the world, but lose our soul!
- *“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose!”* – Jim Elliot

20 And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come

Luke 14:20

- *“The third excuse had to do with a man who put his family before everything. The best thing we can show to our family is that they are not first in our lives, but that Jesus Christ is”.* – Guzik
- *“The good is the enemy of the best!”* - Chambers
- How many Christian families have grown cold and missed out on God’s best because they did not put Him first?
- How many Christian kids have gone astray because the example set before them was not one where God was No#1?

21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

24 For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

Luke 14:21-24

25 And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,

26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:25-27

- *“Carrying a cross always led to death on a cross. No one carried a cross for fun. The first hearers of Jesus didn’t need an explanation of the cross; they knew it was an unrelenting instrument of torture, death, and humiliation. If someone took up his cross, he never came back. It was a one-way journey.”* – David Guzik

The Beauty of the Cross

- *“Christ's cross is such a burden as sails are to a ship or wings to a bird”*
- *“I think it's a sweet thing, that Christ sayeth of my cross, ‘Half mine’, and that He divideth these sufferings with me and taketh the larger share to Himself”*

– Samuel Rutherford

The Beauty of the Cross

- *“I find crosses Christ's carved work that He marketh out for us, and that with crosses He figures and portrays us to His own image, cutting away pieces of our ill and corruption. Lord cut, Lord carve, Lord wound, Lord do anything that may perfect thy Father's image in us and make us meet for glory”.*
- *“Neither need we fear crosses, or sigh, or be sad for anything that is on this side of heaven, if we have Christ.* *– Samuel Rutherford*

28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

29 Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

30 Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

Luke 14:28-30

- Are we going to see this through?
- We started to build with gold, silver and precious stones...
 - walking by faith
- Are you going to finish by building with wood, hay and straw?
 - turning back to the flesh because the cost is too great?

31 Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand?

32 Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.

Luke 14:31-32

- The odds are not the problem, our faith is!
 - Jonathan & armour-bearer vs 20 Philistines 1 Sam 14:6
 - King Asa 580,000 vs 1 Million + 300 chariots 2 Chron 14:11
 - “And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight” Lev 26:8

33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:33

- *“Jesus made it clear that only cross-bearers can be His disciples. Therefore, we sometimes may understate the demands of Jesus when we present the gospel. We can give them the impression that coming to Jesus is only to believe some facts instead of to yield a life”. - Guzik*

34 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned?

35 It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Luke 14:34-35

- Salt is good for preserving or seasoning... but if it loses its “saltiness” it’s of no use.
- A professed believer, who through corruption or assimilation, loses distinctiveness, flavor, or preservative value is ineffective as a follower of Jesus.
- Salt is only useful when it has the nature of salt.
- A Christian is only useful when he or she has the nature of Christ.

Are you worth your salt?

- *“Salt was used on the land. It was used to make it easier for all good things to grow. The Christian must be such that he makes it easier for people to be good and harder to be bad. We all know people in whose company there are certain things we would not and could not do; and equally we all know people in whose company we might well stoop to things which by ourselves we would not do. There are fine souls in whose company it is easier to be brave and cheerful and good. The Christian must carry with him a breath of heaven in which the fine things flourish and the evil things shrivel up.”*

- William Barclay

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To be continued...

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