

Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

SSBC Luke Bible Study #30

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

Maundy Thursday (4/13): Luke 9:23-27

Easter Sunday (4/16): Luke 9:28-36

Introduction:

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” (Luke 9:20) Jesus has now led his disciples to identify himself as the Christ, the Messiah, the one who would save God’s people. He has also shared for the first time that he must give his life and be raised from the dead in order to rescue man from the clutches of sin.

This week’s passages focus on our response to Jesus’ upcoming sacrifice. We are to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow him. And we are to listen carefully to him, immersing ourselves constantly in the notion that Jesus is indeed the glorious Son of God.

During this week of Easter, when our Savior’s sacrifice and beauty should overshadow all else, let’s be sure to allow our hearts to feel the pain of his suffering, followed (but not too quickly) by the joy of his victory.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2)

This bible study was developed by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. To hear a sermon on the same scripture passage covered in this bible study, come to one of our Sunday worship services (8:30am or 11:00am) on the date listed on page 1. Or after that date you can hear it by logging on to www.southshorebaptist.com/sermons/

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Bible Study:

1. This week there are two sermon texts – one for Maundy Thursday and one for Easter Sunday. You may want to study them in separate sittings or all at once. Use the following charts to make observations and jot down any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p>²⁰ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”</p> <p>Peter answered, “The Christ of God.”</p> <p>²¹ Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. ²² And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.”</p> <p><u>Maundy Thursday Sermon Text</u></p> <p>²³ Then he said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self? ²⁶ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. ²⁷ I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.”</p>	

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p><u>Easter Sunday Sermon Text</u></p> <p>²⁸ About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. ²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Two men, Moses and Elijah, ³¹ appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. ³² Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³ As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.)</p> <p>³⁴ While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to **interpret some key observations**.

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from pages 2-3 that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and interpret and apply them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- **S**ins to avoid
- **P**romises to believe
- **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- **C**ommands to obey
- **K**nowledge to share

Don't just write things to write them – listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

Luke 9:23-27 – Deny Yourself:

4. In Luke 9:23 Jesus connects the metaphor of **the cross** – a symbol of gruesome, shameful death for the worst offenders – to the disciples' daily lives.

a. What do you think they understood from this at the time?

b. After Jesus' death on the cross, how do you think the disciples' understanding changed regarding Jesus' challenge to deny themselves, take up their crosses daily, and follow him?

Reflecting on the wicked man's stance toward God, David writes

“In his pride the wicked does not seek him;
in all his thoughts there is no room for God.” (Psalm 10:4)

Reading that verse is convicting. For, though we have been made clean by God, aren't we still so capable of clinging to our old wicked ways? And **in today's busy, information-laden world, we so quickly justify our inability to make time to be with God, to focus our thoughts on him, even to serve him.** But to that he replies

He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Cor 15:57-58)

c. How can you “take up your cross” or “give yourself fully” this week? (How could you seek God more? How could you make more room for him in your thoughts? What would you need to deny yourself of or abstain from in order to really make such room and seek him more?)

Luke 9:28-36 – Listen to Him:

5. God gives us a great foreshadowing of Easter in the transfiguration scene. Moses led the Jews out of their bondage to Egypt. Elijah led the Jews out of bondage to false gods. Now we see them conferring with Jesus and discussing his upcoming departure – which would usher in the Kingdom of God and lead God's people to salvation and delivery from their sins.

a. Describe Moses' encounter with God in Exodus 24 and 33-34. What were some of the memorable aspects and images during this event?

b. Describe Elijah's encounter with the Lord in 1 Kings 19:11-12. Again, what were some memorable aspects and images?

c. What similarities do you see between the above encounters and the scene in Luke 9:28-36? What meaning do you attribute to these similarities?

6. In Luke 9:32 we are told that Peter, John, and James saw God's glory. What is God's glory, and our role with regard to it? (Consider for instance Psalm 66:1-8, 1 Cor 10:31, and John 15:8)

“... to glorify God by worshipping him and making disciples of Jesus Christ ...”

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7. In Luke 9:28 Jesus again repeats his pattern of praying right before key events (recall his baptism in Luke 3:22, his choosing of his disciples in 6:13, his revealing his true identity in 9:18-27). In this case Jesus is in prayer up on a mountain when his dramatic transfiguration occurs. Notice also the similarities between Luke 3:22 and 9:35. "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Wow – what sweet affirmations. Would you like to hear your Lord affirming you today? He already has. God speaks his loving affirmations to each of us throughout the scriptures. For instance, recall Romans 5:8.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

He did so much for you. Will you seek him? Will you make room for him in your life? Will you take time now to follow Jesus' example of communicating with our Father?

[you might use the space below to record your thoughts or prayers]