

# Luke

Carefully Investigating the Gospel ... Together

## SSBC Luke Bible Study #87

*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.*

Passage: Luke 22:31-38

Sermon Date: Jun 3, 2007

### Got Faith?

Peter sure talked the talk, didn't he? "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." Yet he had no idea how shallow his faith actually was – no ability to anticipate accurately how he would really act when put into a tough situation. I can really identify with him in this. Can you?

Would I be as bold as the girl at Columbine High School who, when asked at gunpoint if she believed in God, said "Yes"? Would I really be that bold in my faith? I hope so. But I honestly don't know.

Would I be willing to look like an idiot, implementing some seemingly foolish strategy God had asked me to implement? (You know, like Noah building a giant boat nowhere near the ocean, or Joshua marching his army around a city seven times and then blowing our horns real loud.) Would I be too embarrassed to obey God if he asked me to do something that would look so foolish?

Or would I admit to a hostile crowd with lynching on its mind that I was a close friend of the guy they were after? Even if it was Jesus? Would I? Would you?

Well, because of Jesus, and by his Spirit, we can!

*These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact [studieditor@southshorebaptist.com](mailto:studieditor@southshorebaptist.com)*

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**Bible Study:**

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the chart below to note your observations and any questions you have.

Scripture	Your Observations & Questions
<p><sup>31</sup> “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”</p> <p><sup>33</sup> But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”</p> <p><sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”</p> <p><sup>35</sup> Then Jesus asked them, “When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?”</p> <p>“Nothing,” they answered.</p> <p><sup>36</sup> He said to them, “But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. <sup>37</sup> It is written: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors’; and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.”</p> <p><sup>38</sup> The disciples said, “See, Lord, here are two swords.”</p> <p>“That is enough,” he replied.</p>	

**A Quick Inventory:**

2. Before we slide down the slippery slope of challenging the apostles' weak faith, let's first take an honest inventory of our own faith.
  - a. In what ways or situations have you effectively denied that you know Jesus? Probe your past and write down at least several instances.

Consider both active (what you've said and done that denied Christ) and passive ways (what you didn't say and didn't do to identify with Christ when you could've).

- b. In what ways or situations have you declared that you do know Jesus, making your relationship with Jesus visible to others (perhaps even to those who may have been hostile toward Christianity)?
- c. What are some instances in your life when your faith has been tested significantly? How did your faith fare through these tests?

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

a. Select a few of your observations & questions from page 2 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?

<b>Observation</b> What does it say?	<b>Interpretation</b> What does it mean?

4. 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.

<b>Application</b> How do I apply what it means?

5. Let's explore the concept of faith a little closer, and see how it relates to Luke 22:31-38.

a. What is faith? (Write down your initial thoughts. Then look up Hebrews 11:1 and compare & contrast it with your thoughts.)

b. Why is faith important? (Consider Hebrews 11:6, Eph 2:8-9, 1 Cor 13:13, Rom 3:22)

c. Where does faith come from? (See Rom 10:14-17, 1:16, Heb 12:2)

d. God tests our faith. (1 Chr 29:17, Ps 26:2, 81:7) Sometimes He does this by letting Satan test us. (Job 1:6 – 2:10, Lk 22:31) Why do you think He tests us like this? (See James 1:3, 1:12, 1 Pet 1:7)

6. How is the mission Jesus referred to in Luke 22:35 (in which he sent his disciples out two-by-two to preach and minister – but with no supplies or money) related to the topic of faith? And how was their faith about to get tested further, beginning that very night?

7. Enough about others – what about our faith? Jesus prayed for the apostles, that their faith would not fail.

a. What does it look like in your life when your faith fails?

b. What would it look like for your faith not to fail?

8. Skim over Hebrews 11, noting the recurring pattern which says “By faith so-and-so did such-and-such.” In order to endeavor to pattern your life after these godly men and women who are commended for their faith, think of some ways in which you could demonstrate greater faith in your life and ministry. Write out a few “personal Hebrews 11 statements” by finishing the following sentences with a few different short descriptions of future ways you could imagine living out your faith. Write in your name, followed by what you could do (and write these in the past tense, as if your great, great grand-children are looking back at these ways you lived by faith).

“By faith \_\_\_\_\_ ...  
(your name)

“By faith \_\_\_\_\_ ...  
(your name)

“By faith \_\_\_\_\_ ...  
(your name)

c. How could you step out in faith and begin taking some next steps toward doing one of the what you have just written about?

d. What are some steps you could take to strengthen your faith in order to better succeed in the above?

**Keep in Mind ...**

Jesus was praying for the apostles – that their faith wouldn't fail. (Who could you ask to pray for you?)

Faith comes from God's Word, powered by the gospel and the Holy Spirit. (So how can you come to have more faith?)

9. In verse 32, Jesus exhorts the apostles to “strengthen and build up your brothers.” What are some ways that you already do this? How could you do it better?

10. Skim back over this study, looking for the highlights. What stands out? What are you actually going to do toward strengthening your faith and living by faith? How will you keep from “Petering out”?