

# 'On the road'

## Luke's account of the life and ministry of Jesus

Luke is up front about his intention in writing his gospel record: it was to help a man called Theophilus to have the confidence to trust in Jesus as Lord and Saviour. He wanted to bolster the embryonic faith of this man in the face of both the hostility he was likely to face and the adversity which almost certainly would be his experience.

The aim of this study of Luke's gospel, therefore, is to help us all "*fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith*", to the end that we "*run with perseverance the race marked out for us*" (see Heb.12.1-2)

You can find the background to this series [here](#).

\*

## 19. Luke 10.38-11.13 [w/b Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018]

*“.. Mary has chosen what is better ...”*

This next section of Luke’s account of the life and ministry of Jesus serves as a balance to the previous passage - from which we might have concluded that the big thing in following Jesus is to love our neighbor: ‘Go and do likewise’, concluded Jesus at the end of His discussion with the Bible scholar.

Here’s the corrective. We’re to love God as well! We’re to cultivate such a relationship with God Himself, with all our soul and strength and mind, that we are growing in our delight in Him and resting in His love for us.

*[Despite your best intentions, there may not be time for all the questions to be addressed in your Community Group! Try and ensure that in this study you cover questions 3, 4, and 7. As always try to leave good time for shared prayer!]*

\*

1. **Read Luke 10.38-11.13.** This passage follows on the story Jesus told about ‘neighbour love’ where the parting shot was Jesus’ exhortation to ‘go and do likewise’.

Why do you think Luke places the episode in the home of Martha and Mary immediately after the story of the ‘good’ Samaritan?

Which bit of this whole passage (10.38-11.13) speaks most powerfully to you? In what ways are you challenged by this passage?

**2. Read Luke 10.38-40.** In the opening words of these verses, Luke picks up the theme of Jesus' journey once again: He is welcomed into the home of Martha and Mary (and Lazarus!)

In what ways might it be said that both Martha and Mary seek to honour Jesus?

Where do your sympathies lie in these verses - with Martha or with Mary?

**3. Read Luke 10.41-42.** The use of the repeated name was a way of expressing a certain intimacy: Jesus gently chides Martha for being so 'distracted'.

Is your life *too* busy? Are you trying to do too much, albeit from the best of motives?

What is the 'better' thing which Mary had chosen and what might that look like for you?

In response to this passage what (if anything) might you now *choose* to do?

**4. Read Luke 11.1-4.** Luke has more to say on Jesus' prayer life than any other gospel writer. For Luke clearly Jesus' prayer life was integral to His ministry - and it will be no different for us!

What do you struggle with when it comes to prayer?

How (if at all!) does Jesus' teaching here help you?

**5. Read Luke 11.5-8.** The story Jesus tells is meant to encourage His disciples (and, by extension, believers down the ages) in their praying.

What is the lesson Jesus wants us to take from this short story?

This story is told on the back of vv.2-4: how do those earlier verses inform our 'shameless audacity'?

**6. Read Luke 11.9-10.** The practical thrust of the story Jesus told is spelled out here in words which have become very familiar.

Do you think Jesus is expressing the same exhortation in three different ways, or pointing to three related but different features in our praying?

How does it help you in your praying having these unqualified assurances from Jesus?

**7. Read Luke 11.11-13.** A further humorous illustration is given by Jesus to help His disciples pray (He's still teaching them to pray, remember - see v.1).

How does the illustration He uses give us confidence in our praying?

The previous story focused more on *how* we pray: here it's *that for which* we pray that is more in view: why do you think Jesus speaks particularly about our asking for the gift of the Holy Spirit?