

LUKE 5-9 BIBLE STUDIES, St Andrews Roseville

Welcome back to another year of engaging with God and one another through Small Groups. 2025 is going to be an interesting year in the life of St Andrews! We are in a period of transition between one senior minister and the next, and we are about to undertake a significant building project. These factors (among others) will bring about unexpected changes and will highlight the need to help each other persevere patiently, flexibly, and faithfully!

I believe in a season of uncertainty our Small Groups can function as hubs of loving connection, stability, and encouragement. They will help hold us together as a community of disciples, seeking to honour the Lord Jesus, despite the potentially unsettling variables around us.

As life throws various curved balls at us, how can we keep our focus on Jesus?

I think Luke's gospel will help us stay on track & keep the main thing the main thing! Why? Because we come face to face with our great Lord and Saviour, Jesus. Together we will sit at his feet, listening to his powerful and assuring words, observing his compassionate and life changing deeds, and be renewed in our devotion to following him in every way, and in every season of life.

My prayer for our whole church is to see this next season as an opportunity for growth rather than an irritable inconvenience. And that as we meditate deeply on God's word in Luke, we would have a life changing encounter with Jesus, which leads to a greater devotion to him and one another.

- *"Follow me," Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him (Luke 5:28)*

Don't forget to come along to our **Dr David Peterson** lecture where he'll orient us to the meaning of Luke 5-9 especially.

- **Monday 10th Feb. 7:30-9:00pm. @Church.**

Grace & Peace

Scott Warner

Bible Study 1: LUKE 5:27-32

For Starters

- “I’m not perfect, but I’m also certainly not a ‘sinner’” Discuss.

Read Luke 5:27-32

- What are your initial impressions?

- What does it mean to leave all and follow Jesus? (v28) What does this assume about Jesus and our other commitments in life? What stops us from taking this challenge to heart? What are legitimate and illegitimate ways of applying this?

- Jesus is clearly happy to associate with those the powerful and privileged look down on (v29-30). By welcoming the likes of tax collectors is Jesus tolerating their sinful tendencies? (they were widely known as greedy crooks). How is it possible to love someone and not endorse everything they stand for?

- What does v31-32 mean? Are the scribes/pharisees really righteous/healthy? What is their sin?

- What is the problem with the religious? Do we share their mindset in any way? In what way can we be self-righteous and judgmental?

- What do we learn about Jesus here?

- How should we respond? What area can we work on?

Bible Study 2: LUKE 5:33-6:16

For Starters

- How do you cope with change? Why is it often an exciting ideal but a difficult reality?

Read Luke 5:33-39 (NB: Jesus is still at Levi's party which began in 5:29)

- In v33-35 Who is the bride groom and who is the bride?
 - o To help, check out Is54:5, 62:4-5, Hos2:16
- What is Jesus basic point in v33-35?
- Given the surrounding context, what seems to be the point of the 2 stories Jesus tells in v36-39

Read 6:1-11 (NB: 2 stories about the sabbath. 6:1-5 & 6:7-11).

- What idea unites these 2 stories?
- The Pharisees objection in v2 is questionable. The law actually allowed eating some fruit of the field while passing through (Dt23:25). However, reaping was forbidden on the Sabbath (Ex34:21). But it seems unfair to categorise picking a few heads of grain as reaping/ploughing! They are being ultra conservative and pedantic! Plus they are missing the point of the sabbath ...
- In 6:1-5, what does Jesus' approval of the disciples actions, his use of King David's example (1Sam21:1-6), and his claim about himself (v5) indicate about the purpose and point of the sabbath?
- How does Jesus question in v9 get to the nub of the issue? Who is doing evil & harm on the sabbath? (v11)

Implications

- In what ways can we uphold our conventional traditional way of doing things as a litmus test of orthodoxy? How do we subtly or overtly judge those who differ on various customs, traditions, and religious forms? What matters most?

- In what ways could our Christian/church 'ways' obscure the liberating, restorative and joyful reality of what Jesus brings
- How might/should Christian's practice/express the sabbath today? (Rom 14:5-6). Do you have renewing moments in your weekly routine?