

## This week's reading:

**April 2:** Luke 1 – 3

**April 3:** Luke 4 – 6

**April 4:** Luke 7 – 10

**April 5:** Luke 11 – 13

**April 6:** Luke 14 – 17

**April 7:** Luke 18 – 20

**April 8:** Luke 21 – 24

**April 9:** John 1 – 3

## Summary:

**April 2:** Luke 1 – 3

Luke 1 begins the description of Jesus' ministry with not only His own birth's description; but with the birth of His forerunner, John the Baptist. **(Note:** Everything in Jesus' ministry is according to the plan of God. That includes the birth of Jesus, and it includes the events that will lay the groundwork of Jesus' ministry. John, as the forerunner, is vital to God's fulfillments and Luke gives the details of how God accomplished not just Jesus's conception, but John's birth, as well.)

Luke 2 contains many of the most famous accounts in the Gospels: Jesus' birth and shepherd and angels (Linus monologue), Jesus being presented at the temple (Simeon & Anna), Jesus being lost for 3 days in Jerusalem. **(Note:** All these events make the point that Jesus is God. He is worthy of worship, He is the source of salvation, He is the true Son of God.)

Luke 3 begins the meat of the earthly ministry as John preaches and Jesus is baptized.

**April 3:** Luke 4 – 6

Luke 4 contains the temptation of Jesus by Satan (and Jesus' faithfulness) before the public ministry of Jesus begins in earnest. **(Note:** Both the temptation and the public teaching on Isaiah are part of Jesus' declaration of Himself and His ministry. He will accomplish God's plans/promises, the way it should be done as described by the prophets.)

Luke 5 begins the calling of the disciples and Jesus' healing ministry. **(Note:** Jesus is already planning for the work of the church by calling her future leaders. The disciples were a diverse group who were brought together and empowered by the work of God.)

Luke 6 contains Jesus teaching on the Sabbath and the Beatitudes. **(Note:** Jesus starts and ends this chapter with declaration of authority; one over the Sabbath—the Law, the other over the foundation of life—God Himself.)

**April 4:** Luke 7 – 10

Luke 7 continues the teaching and miracles of Jesus as the Centurion's servant is healed and Jesus teaches on faith and forgiveness. **(Note:** Jesus' power and authority are on full display as He does not just heal, but command disease.)

Luke 8 begins with a testimony to the work of women in Jesus' life and His teaching in parables before concluding with the calming of the sea and the Gerasenes demoniac. **(Note:** As with illness, here the weather and the demonic realm are shown to be subject to the power and command of Jesus.)

Luke 9 sends the 12 out for ministry before the feeding of the 5,000 and the

Transfiguration. **(Note:** Jesus continues to prove His identity before the culmination of the chapter where God confirms who Jesus is. From this point forward in the Gospel of Luke, the writing is centered on traveling to Jerusalem. This chapter begins the real focus on the crucifixion and begins a “march” towards that event.)

Luke 10 sends out 70 followers and the work of God through them before finishing with the accounts of the Good Samaritan and Mary & Martha.

**April 5:** Luke 11 – 13

Luke 11 contains the Lukan version of the Lord’s Prayer before calling the Pharisees to account for their hypocrisy. Jesus also rebukes the crowd and points to Jonah as a picture of His work. **(Note:** While not thought of as Messianic at first reading, Jesus’ claiming of Jonah as a sign of His work demonstrates the depth to which the Old Testament truly points to Christ as the fulfillment.)

Luke 12 teaches on: faith, covetousness, preparation for the end, and the division of the Gospel.

Luke 13 completes the long teaching discourse with a healing; before beginning another teaching section.

**April 6:** Luke 14 – 17

Luke 14 continues Jesus’ teaching in parables before concluding with an explanation of discipleship. **(Note:** As a part of His “march” to the cross, Luke shows the bulk of Jesus’ teaching as being centered on discipleship and Kingdom living. With the cross looming, Luke’s account focuses on those future Christians who will be reborn.)

Luke 15 is the lost and found: sheep, coin, prodigal son. **(Note:** 3 stories with the same message. God seeks that which is lost, and heaven rejoices when the lost are saved.)

Luke 16 contains 2 well known teachings: the unrighteous steward and the rich man & Lazarus.

Luke 17 begins with instructions to the disciples, before cleansing 10 lepers, and finishing with a teaching on the second coming of Christ. **(Note:** Part of the preparation for the crucifixion is the teaching of Jesus’ return. The Resurrection does not end Jesus’ earthly work, the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming does.)

**April 7:** Luke 18 – 20

Luke 18 continues teaching while moving towards the rich young ruler and the healing of Bartimaeus. **(Note:** Jesus’ teaching is very practical, on prayer and salvation. He is moving towards the cross and is laying the foundation for the early church by giving teaching they could understand and follow.)

Luke 19 begins with Jesus in Jericho where Zaccheus is converted and then moves to Jerusalem and the Triumphal Entry and temple cleansing. **(Note:** The march of Luke is concluded (chapters 9 – 19) and Jesus has entered into the final work of His earthly ministry. Old Testament prophecy is being fulfilled and the events of Jesus’ life have been perfectly arranged by God to culminate in His salvific work.)

Luke 20 shows how Jesus is questioned and teaches in the Temple. **(Note:** Jesus does not get caught up in worldly disagreements, but keeps an eternal focus as He has throughout the entirety of His ministry.)

**April 8:** Luke 21 – 24

Luke 21 continues Jesus’ open teaching in the Temple.

Luke 22 prepares and celebrates the Passover (Lord’s Supper is instituted), before moving to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus is arrested and taken to trial; Peter’s

denial occurs toward the end of this chapter.

Luke 23 continues the trials before Jesus is finally crucified and laid in a tomb. **(Note:** Luke does an excellent job of showing the lengths of the leadership to absolve themselves with multiple sham trials before: the Sanhedrin, Herod, Pilate. The back and forth moving of Jesus would be comical if were not pathetic and blasphemous.)

Luke 24 recounts the Resurrection and road to Emmaus before concluding with the Ascension. **(Note:** Jesus lays more groundwork for the early church by expounding on the Old Testament which was the basis of teaching for the early church.)