

Central Lutheran Church

Narrative Lectionary Bible Study

Winter, 2021

Today's Lesson: January 6, 2021

Welcome and Introduction

Happy New Year! It is a blessing to arrive at 2021. We all have great hopes for the vaccine and the possibility that we will return to a "new normal" at some point this year. It is also a blessing for us to continue with this weekly "water stop" in our shared covid-19 marathon. Thank you for joining this study, it is so good to be together for holy conversation and to "see" one another on Zoom.

Winter Schedule

With the New Year we now turn to the New Testament and study of lessons from the Gospel of Luke. We will turn to other books in the New Testament by the Easter season.

For January and February, we will dwell in the central ministry lessons about Jesus or the teaching of Jesus in Luke. Here are the dates and lessons for this winter Bible study series. Each lesson we study on Wednesday is the main lesson for worship on Saturday night or Sunday morning.

Wednesday, January 6: Luke 2: 39-52 (Jesus in the temple)

Wednesday, January 13: Luke 4: 14-30 (Sermon at Nazareth)

Wednesday, January 20: Luke 5: 1-11 (Call of disciples)

Wednesday, January 27: Luke 6: 1-16 (Lord of the Sabbath)

Wednesday, February 3: Luke 7: 1-17 (Healing and raising from the dead)

Wednesday, February 10: Luke 9: 28-45 (Transfiguration)

Wednesday, February 17: No class, Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 24: Luke 13: 1-9, 31-35 (Tower of Siloam)

Wednesday, March 3: Luke 15: 1-32 (Parables of lost sheep, coin and son)

Wednesday, March 10: Luke 16: 19-31 (Parable of rich man and Lazarus)

Wednesday, March 17: Luke 18: 31- 19:10 (Healing blind man and Zacchaeus)

Wednesday, March 24: Luke 19: 29-44 (Palm Sunday, Jesus weeps for the city)

Wednesday, March 31: Luke 24: 1-12 (Easter Sunday)

Narrative Study for Wednesday, January 6

Welcome and Christ Care Prayers

Introduction to the lesson

Lectio Divina

There are many ways to engage in *lectio divina*, here is one way to consider:

1. The first time we read the lesson for the information, the story that is being shared. Here we read with our head, asking what we first noticed?
2. The second time, we slow down and read with our heart. What emotions do you notice as you read and respond or react to in the lesson?
3. The third and final time, really slow down. Perhaps you pause or stop at a verse, linger there. Here you begin to read with your soul. What is God saying in, with and under this story? What is God not saying, in other words, is God speaking or does it seem more like human interpretation at this point. What is liberating or what is troubling?

Tonight's Lesson

We finished our time in the fall bible study with the beautiful words of Mary who said, "let it be with me according to your word".

Of course, we celebrated Christmas and Epiphany since we met last, so we can leave those stories where they are situated in the bible narrative.

Now, after Jesus has come into the world and been revealed, we meet him this week as an adolescent – a 12-year old boy who has travelled with his parents to the temple for Passover. This is the good and proper training for a Jewish boy who is transitioning to adulthood. Mary and Joseph's trip to Jerusalem from Nazareth is a 65-mile trek and they were expected to make the trip three times each year.

Recalling our Old Testament learning, we know that traditions and 'remembering' are essential to the formation of a family's children. Jesus is in the temple learning from the teachers and we are told that all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

The pivotal point of the story is when Mary and Joseph realize that Jesus is not with them as they are journeying back to Nazareth. After a day's walk, Mary and Joseph return to Jerusalem to find Jesus in the temple and when they seemingly admonish him for worrying them, he responds by saying, "Why were you searching for me. Did you not know that I must be in my father's house?"

Jesus identity as divine – as God's son – is revealed in the temple. The setting and the story create a backdrop that will set the stage for all that comes next. There are good and interesting questions here for us to consider.

Luke 2:39-52

The Return to Nazareth

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Boy Jesus in the Temple

⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"^l ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Conversation and Questions from the Divine Reading

1. What did you notice? What was interesting, or confusing? What was familiar or unfamiliar?
2. What emotions did you notice as you read? How did you respond or react to the lesson?

3. What is God saying in, with and under this story? What is God not saying, in other words, is God speaking or does it seem more like human interpretation at this point. What is liberating or what is troubling? How are you open to God as you pause for this third reading?
4. What questions do you bring tonight for us to discuss?

Closing Reflection