



Study Guide: Luke – Chapter 10

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This study guide provides an educational overview of Luke Chapter 10 using a verse-by-verse structure, theological context, and application-oriented insights grounded in Scripture.

Introduction

Luke chapter 10 serves as a pivotal moment in the Gospel narrative, highlighting Jesus' instructions to His disciples as He sends them out on mission. This chapter contributes to the flow of Luke by transitioning from Jesus' earlier teachings and miracles to a focus on the expansion of His ministry through His followers. Readers should watch for the themes of mission, dependence on God, the nature of discipleship, and the revelation of God's kingdom through both word and deed.

Context

The immediate literary context of Luke 10 follows Jesus' teachings on prayer and the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 9. The chapter is set within the broader covenant framework of God's redemptive plan unfolding through Jesus as the Messiah. Key speakers include Jesus, who commissions the seventy-two disciples, and later, a lawyer who questions Jesus about inheriting eternal life. The setting moves between Jesus sending out His followers into various towns and His teaching moments in response to questions, emphasizing the practical outworking of the kingdom of God among people.

Outline

The chapter begins with Jesus appointing and sending out seventy-two disciples in pairs to prepare towns for His coming. This mission section includes detailed instructions on how to conduct themselves and what to expect. Following their return, Jesus rejoices in their success and pronounces blessings on the revelation of divine truths to the humble. The narrative then shifts to a dialogue with a lawyer who prompts Jesus to teach about loving God and neighbor, culminating in the parable of the Good Samaritan. The chapter concludes with Jesus visiting the home of Mary and Martha, illustrating the balance between active service and contemplative devotion.



Verse-by-Verse Study

Verses 1-3: Jesus appoints seventy-two others and sends them ahead of Him to every town and place He plans to visit, instructing them to pray for workers to be sent into the harvest, highlighting the urgency and spiritual nature of the mission.

Verses 4-9: Jesus gives specific instructions to the seventy-two about their conduct—travel light, accept hospitality, heal the sick, and proclaim that the kingdom of God is near, emphasizing dependence on God and the importance of peace and healing as signs of the kingdom.

Verses 10-12: Jesus warns the disciples about rejection, instructing them to shake the dust off their feet as a testimony against unwelcoming towns, indicating the seriousness of rejecting the gospel message.

Verses 13-16: Jesus pronounces woes on unrepentant cities like Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum, contrasting their hardness with the greater accountability they face due to witnessing His mighty works.

Verses 17-20: The seventy-two return with joy, reporting their authority over demons in Jesus' name. Jesus responds by affirming their victory but redirects their joy toward their salvation and standing before God rather than merely spiritual power.

Verses 21-24: Jesus praises the Father for revealing divine truths to the humble and childlike, while hiding them from the wise and learned, underscoring the theme of revelation and divine election. He also affirms the blessedness of His disciples who witness His identity and mission firsthand.

Verses 25-29: A lawyer tests Jesus by asking what must be done to inherit eternal life. Jesus turns the question back to him, prompting a summary of the law focused on loving God and neighbor, which the lawyer affirms.

Verses 30-37: Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan in response to the lawyer's question, illustrating that true neighborly love transcends ethnic and religious boundaries and is demonstrated through compassionate action toward those in need.

Verses 38-42: The chapter closes with Jesus visiting the home of Martha and Mary. Martha is busy with preparations, while Mary sits at Jesus' feet listening. Jesus commends Mary's choice to prioritize attentive discipleship over busyness, highlighting the value of spiritual focus.



Key Themes

One key theme is the mission of the church, as Jesus sends His followers out with authority and instructions, emphasizing dependence on God's provision and the urgency of the harvest. Another theme is divine revelation, where God reveals truth to the humble and childlike, contrasting human wisdom with spiritual insight. The chapter also explores the nature of neighborly love, challenging social and religious prejudices through the parable of the Good Samaritan. Finally, it highlights the balance between active service and contemplative worship in discipleship, as seen in the contrast between Martha and Mary.

Cross-References

The sending of the seventy-two echoes the sending of the twelve apostles in Matthew 10, emphasizing the expansion of Jesus' mission. The instruction to shake the dust off their feet recalls Deuteronomy's practice as a testimony against unrepentant towns. The parable of the Good Samaritan parallels Jesus' teaching on love in Matthew 22:37-40, where loving God and neighbor summarizes the law. Jesus' praise of God for revealing truths to the humble connects with Matthew 11:25-26, highlighting the theme of divine revelation. The contrast between Martha and Mary resonates with teachings on priorities in discipleship found elsewhere in Luke and John.

Application

Modern disciples are called to embrace the mission mindset modeled in this chapter, recognizing the urgency of sharing the gospel and relying on God's provision rather than their own resources. The call to love one's neighbor challenges believers to cross cultural and social boundaries with compassion and practical help. The warning against rejection of the gospel invites self-examination about openness to God's message. Additionally, the example of Mary encourages believers to balance active service with attentive listening to Jesus, cultivating a heart posture that values spiritual nourishment alongside ministry efforts.

Summary

Luke 10 unfolds as a rich narrative of mission, revelation, and discipleship. Jesus commissions His followers to actively participate in the kingdom's advance, equipping them with authority and guidance for their task. The chapter reveals God's preference for humility and openness in receiving divine truth, challenges cultural boundaries through



the parable of the Good Samaritan, and models the integration of service and devotion. Together, these elements encourage believers to engage faithfully in God's redemptive work with both action and contemplation.