

Cultivate Gospel of Luke Study  
Lesson Sixteen

Read and meditate on Luke Chapter 8 this week  
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.

Verses 1-3

In these verses, we read that there were women who also traveled with Jesus and helped to support him financially. Luke mentions three women by name.

Mary Magdalene had been healed of demon possession by the Lord. Mary is often wrongfully assumed to be the sinful woman in chapter 7, who anointed Jesus with perfume and washed his feet with her tears, wiping them with her hair.

She is shown here, as a devout follower, grateful for what the Lord delivered her from.

Joanna was the wife of Herod's steward. She would have been a woman that had the financial means to help support Jesus as He traveled in His ministry.

Susanna is simply included by name. We know nothing more about her. What a beautiful privilege to be mentioned by name, for all to read in Scripture, as being a supporter of Christ.

Stephen Armstrong notes: "It's interesting that Luke more than the other gospel writers has made a point throughout his gospel of highlighting the role of women in Jesus' life and how Jesus showed them unusual kindness and respect for women, for His day."

Jesus, being God, had the power to instantly provide all He needed during His ministry without depending on humans to help provide for Him. (Read Matthew 26:53)

1. What does it show about Jesus, that He took support from His followers? Was His intention for His benefit? Or for His followers?

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How do you think it made these women feel, to be able to show their love for Jesus in this way?

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How do you feel when you show your love for the Lord by serving Him in ministry, and financially give to the works He is doing?

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Read Matthew 14:13-21 and John 6:1-14.  
This is another example of Jesus being able to instantly provide what was needed, yet He told the disciples, "You give them something to eat." Imagine the little boy in John 6:9. I believe he always remembered what miraculous thing the Lord did with the little he had to offer.

Read Mark 12:41-44

2. What is the lesson in this story of the widow?

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There are times that we truly may not be able to give financially. The Lord knows each person's situation. And He wants a "cheerful giver" (2Corinthians 9:7) But, supporting the Lord comes in many ways.

3. What other ways can someone support God's works, other than financially?

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Verses 4-15 The Parable of the Sower

4. In verses 4-8, what exactly is Jesus saying when he proclaims “He who has ears; let him hear”? What does this look like in your walk?

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Luke 8:9-10 “And He said, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest they are told in parables, so that while seeing they may not see, and while hearing they may not understand.” (This is a prophetic verse from Isaiah 6:9)

5. What is the purpose of a parable?

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Barclay notes: “A parable is not an allegory; an allegory is a story in which every possible detail has an inner meaning; but an allegory has to be read and studied; a parable is heard. We must be very careful not to make allegories of the parables.”

6. As you read verses 11-15 do you find that you can identify with more than one example of ground that the seed was sown in during your lifetime? Explain

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Reviewing the ministry of Jesus, we see each of these types of people.

- (1) The Pharisees and religious leaders who refused to believe.
- (2) Some people rallied around Jesus because of His miracles of healing and feeding but refused to stay with His message when the going got tough.
- (3) People like the rich ruler (Luke 18:18–30), were interested in Jesus but would not accept Him because of the strong pull of materialism.
- (4) Others followed Him and were committed to His Word regardless of the cost.

### Verses 16-18 The Parable of the Lamp

In verse 18 we get a great warning that gets overlooked sometimes:

Be careful how you hear: Jesus warned His listeners to actively prepare the soil of their heart and mind, to judge themselves as hearers. This is always the reason we ask for application of the word into our lives. What good is it if it is not applied?

Being an active listener and seeking the truth that you can apply to your own walk will allow you to receive more truth.

Being a passive listener and not applying the Word to your life will prevent you from receiving any more truth.

7. What other Scripture verses can you find about being a hearer or listener, either a good hearer or not?

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Verse 17 states,

*“For nothing is concealed that will not become evident, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light.”*

David Guzik commented,

**“a. No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand:** Truth, by its nature is meant to be revealed; and God promised that it will be **(nothing is secret that will not be revealed)**.

**b. That those who enter may see the light:** If you have the truth of God, you have a solemn responsibility to spread that truth in whatever way God gives you opportunity, even as someone who has the cure for a life-threatening disease has the moral responsibility to spread that cure. God didn’t light your lamp so that it would be **hidden**.

**i.** One must either spread the word itself or spread the influence of God’s word by bringing others to a place where they will hear it. It’s best to do both.”

#### Verses 19-21 Jesus’ Mother and Brothers

Warren Wiersbe noted, “Our Lord’s mother, Mary, and His half-brothers (Matt. 13:55–56; Acts 1:14) were worried about Jesus and wanted to talk with Him. Some of His friends had already said that He was out of His mind (Mark 3:21), and perhaps His family agreed with them. Jesus took this as an opportunity to teach another spiritual lesson: being a part of His spiritual family is much more important than any human relationship and is based on obedience to the Word of God. It is not enough to “hear” the Word of God; we must also “keep it” (Luke 8:15).”

8. Why is this true? Why is being a part of His spiritual family much more important than any human relationship?

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9. Read 1Samuel 18:1, 1Samuel 19:1-2, 1Samuel 20:16-17, 41-42.

David had seven older brothers, but little is spoken of them in regards to their relationship with David. In Jonathan, David found a true and loyal friend. His relationship with Jonathan became more important than his family relations.

Are you closer to your church family than your biological family? Are you family members also spiritual brothers and sisters to you?

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**Stop and take a few minutes in your small groups to pray for unsaved family members.**

10. Read John 15:14, 15:15, Proverbs 17:17, Proverbs 27:10 about friends. What stood out to you in these verses?

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11. What advice would you give a woman in the church who does not feel they have that kind of friendship? What are some things they can do to help find their true spiritual friends? What can you do to be a good friend to other women?

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What can you do to reach out and be a good friend to other women?

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