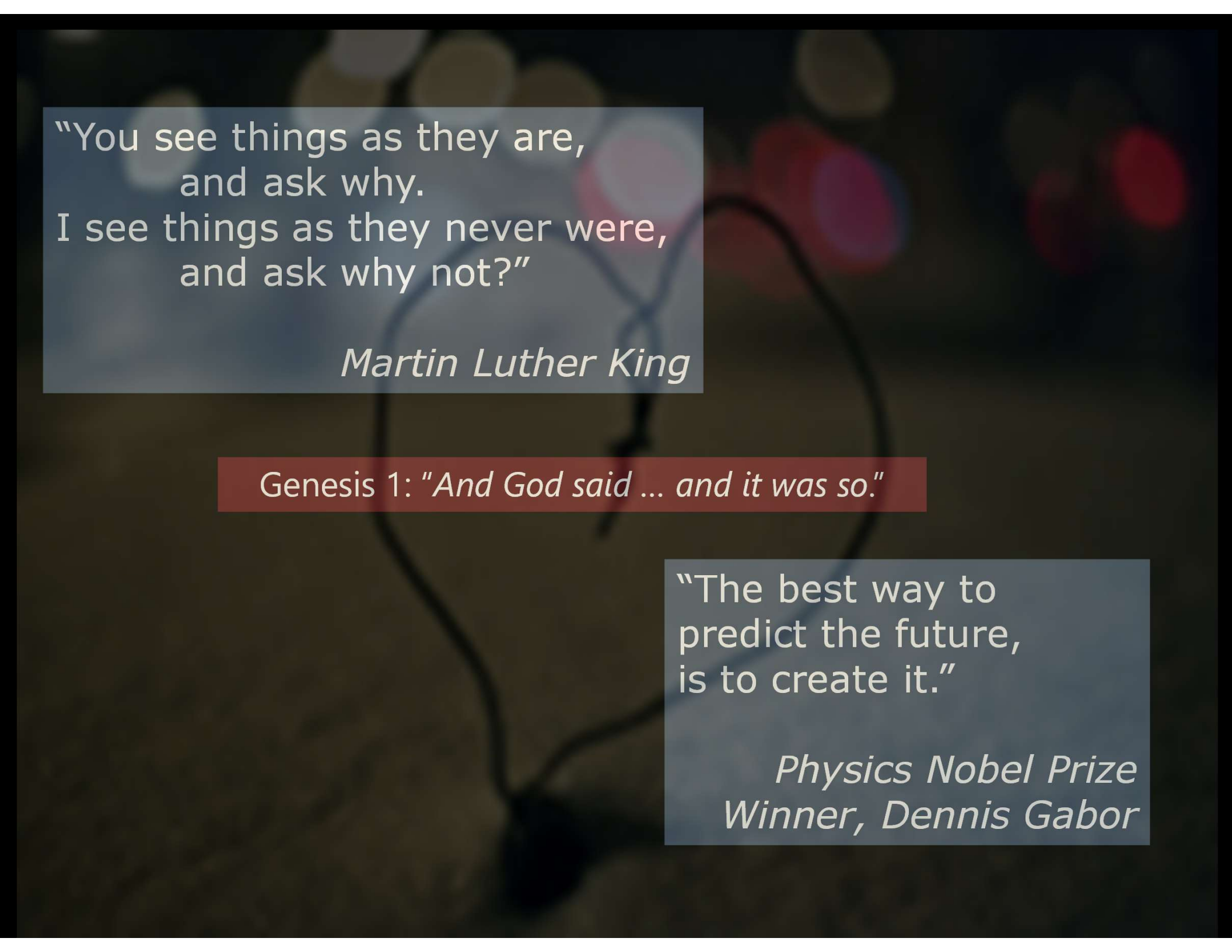




"You see things as they are,
and ask why.
I see things as they never were,
and ask why not?"

Martin Luther King

Genesis 1: *"And God said ... and it was so."*

"The best way to
predict the future,
is to create it."

*Physics Nobel Prize
Winner, Dennis Gabor*

The Gospel of Luke

- Tuesday - The Parables of the Lost
- Wednesday – Reversal
- Thursday - Today!



- Quick recap
- Getting going
- Respond to the Times!
- Window of Opportunity
- Today
- Jesus' Presence
- 'Forcing their way in'
- The Challenge for us





Jesus was in favour of the wrong sort of 'poor'



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Luke – Acts is the
whole story

Luke 1
Piously waiting for God
in the Jewish Temple

Cross
Resurrection
Ascension
Pentecost

Acts 28
Preaching the Kingdom
of God boldly and
unhindered in Rome

us

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graph LR; A[Luke 1  
Piously waiting for God  
in the Jewish Temple] --> B[Cross  
Resurrection  
Ascension  
Pentecost]; B --> C[Acts 28  
Preaching the Kingdom  
of God boldly and  
unhindered in Rome]; C --> D[us]; C --> E[Acts 28]; E --> D;
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Acts 1: 6-11

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky?”

Acts 1: 6-11

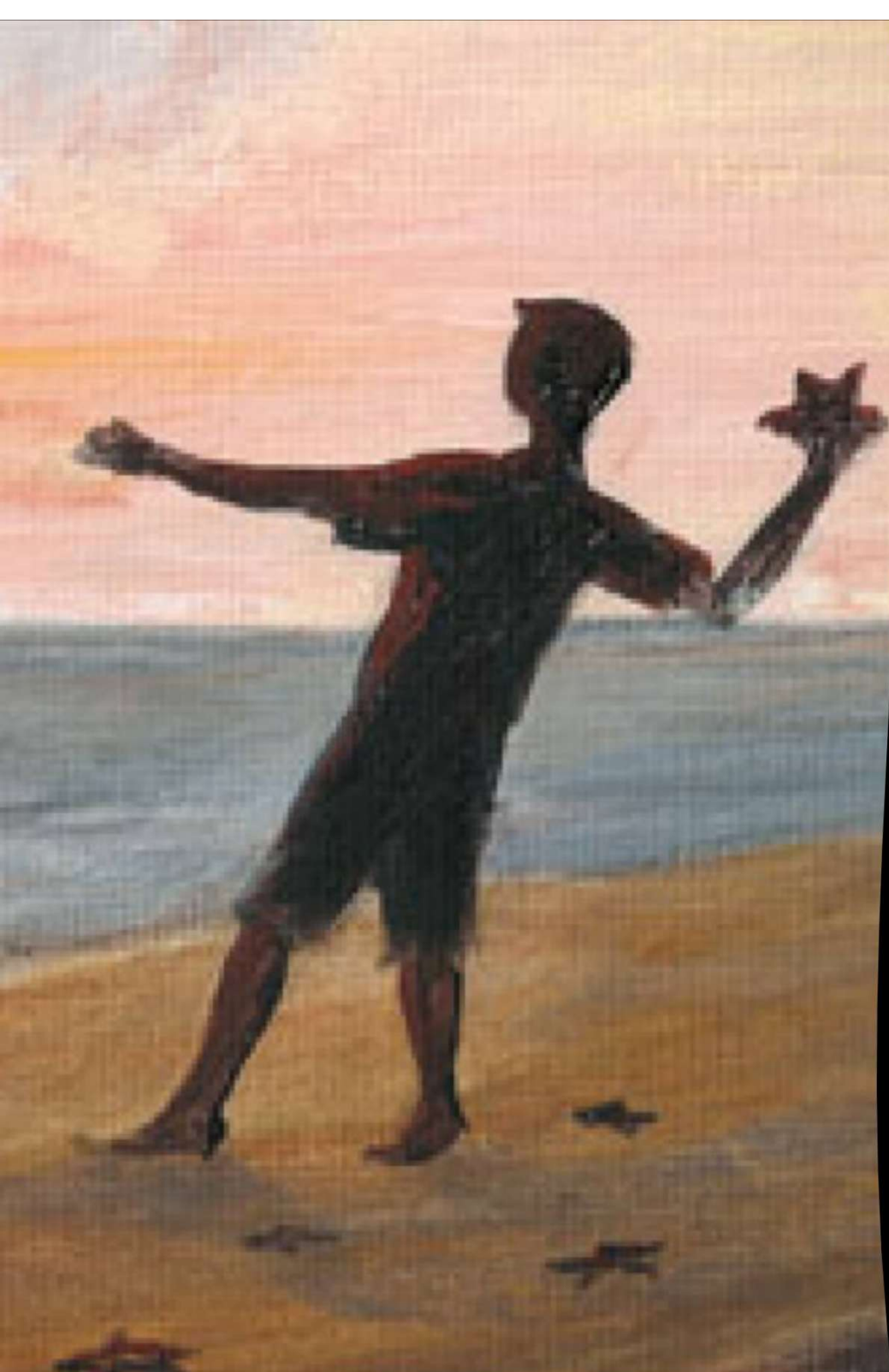
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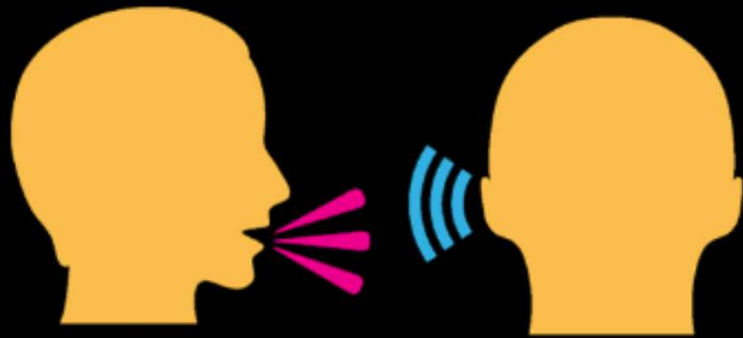
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The genius move from eschatology to evangelism
From the eschatological crisis to the existential crisis
Today is the day!



- The genius move from eschatology to evangelism
- From the eschatological crisis to the existential crisis
- Today is the day!



- How does reading a story about Jesus meeting someone 1993 years ago, achieve a purpose for you today?



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Luke 15:

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Then Jesus told them this parable:

- The lost sheep
- The lost coin
- The lost son
- The dishonest manager!

Luke 15 is Jesus justifying his way of doing mission!

Remember ...

The Duff method for parables

Do Not:

- Assume Jesus is using a homely illustration of normal life.
- Twist the text so it fits what was normal.
- Be pleased that Jesus is describing God as being just like us!

Do:

- Look for where the parable **diverges** from normal life.
- This is where you will find the meaning – because God is **not** like us!

Luke 16.1-8

Jesus said (to his disciples as well):

'There was a rich man who had a manager who was denounced to him for squandering his possessions. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Hand over your management records, for you cannot be my manager any longer.'

The manager said to himself, 'what am I going to do, now as my master is taking the management away from me? I don't have the strength to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg. I know what I will do so that when I have been dismissed as manager people will welcome me into their homes.'

Luke 16.1-8

So, summoning each one of his master's creditors he said to the first, 'how much do you owe my master?' He replied, 'a hundred drums of olive oil'. He said to him, 'Take your contract, quickly sit down and make it fifty'. Then he said to another man, 'How much do you owe?' He replied, 'a hundred bags of wheat'. He told him, 'Take your contract, and make it eighty'.

And the master praised the dishonest manager because he had acted sensibly; for the worldly are more sensible than the godly in responding to their moment in history*.

* to their generation

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**JUST DO
SOMETHING**



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Luke 15 is Jesus justifying his way of doing mission!

**JUST DO
SOMETHING**



Seize the moment, you know it makes sense!
If you have ears to hear, then hear!

Respond! Today!



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Window of Opportunity

Luke 13.6-9

‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?” He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down”.’

Window of Opportunity

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Judgement is delayed for ‘today’
Now is a season of grace – God’s unexpected and undeserved generosity.

Window of Opportunity

Luke 12:54-56:

Jesus said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does. And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time? (see also 17.22-37)

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See the 'signs of the times'

See what the now moment is - and seize it!

Window of Opportunity

Luke 4.18-19

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

But Jesus has stopped before the end of the sentence in Isaiah 61.2:
and the day of vengeance of our God.

Window of Opportunity

Luke 4.18-19

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But Jesus has stopped before the end of the sentence in Isaiah 61.2:
and the day of vengeance of our God.

Is judgement abolished, or just postponed?

Window of Opportunity

Luke 19.41-44:

When he draw near and saw the city he wept over it saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your inspection."

Window of Opportunity

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Postponed ... a window, but it will close?

Window of Opportunity

Very sensitive

In Acts we do have a pattern of the gospel going to a place and then moving on.

But in the detail, it is clear that individuals can still respond.

Acts tells of lots in Jerusalem turning to Jesus even after Luke 19.44!

The parables are all about individuals – if you have ears then hear! – not grand schemes.

Again, not eschatology (grand scheme) but the existential (you!)

Fortunately, my job is only to point you to what the bible says.

Jesus not Jeremy is the teacher! (Matt 23.8)



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19 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. 7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” 8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

9 Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

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When is today?

Where is Jesus passing through?

Who wants to see Jesus?

Today

For individuals, there are moments of opportunity.

- "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." (4:21)
- "We have seen strange things today." (5:26)
- 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. (13:32)
- "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." (19:5) Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, (19:9)
- "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (23:43)

Jesus is only ever
'passing' through

If you like Narnia,

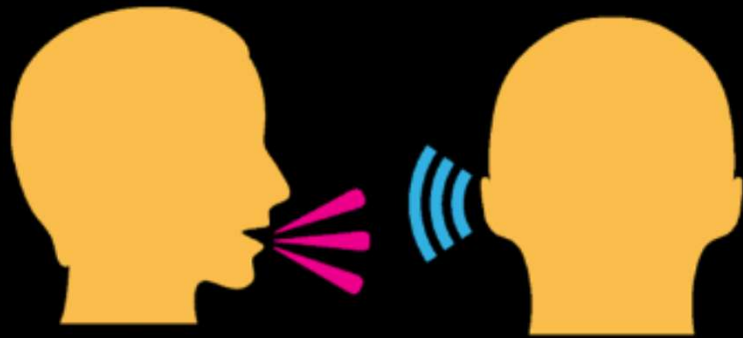
He'll be coming and going."

"One day you'll see him and another you won't."

"He doesn't like being tied down.."

"He's wild, you know. Not like a tame lion."

Aslan is on the move!



- Do you agree that, in practice, that moments when people are close to turning to Jesus don't last forever - they are either seized or lost?



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Luke 7:31-35:

Jesus' Presence

"To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? 32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other: "'We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not cry.' 33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' 34 The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' 35 But wisdom is proved right by all her children."

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Jesus and John both part of God's plan

But they have different missions/modes of operation

Luke 5.34-35:

Jesus' Presence

'You cannot make wedding-guests fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you? The days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.'

Mary in the garden of resurrection

Peter jumping in the sea

The pair on the road to Emmaus

Everything is different when Jesus is present

Jesus' Presence

Luke 16.16-17:

Until John it was the law and the prophets; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is being proclaimed and all are forcing their way in.

It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for the tiniest part to fall from the law.

Jesus is focused on today – the day of welcome
Tomorrow – rules for holy living will apply
Today is the party for the prodigal son, tomorrow
it's back to work for both sons, presumably?



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Luke 16.16-17:

Forcing their way in

Until John it was the law and the prophets; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is being proclaimed and all are forcing their way in. It is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for the tiniest part to fall from the law.

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Luke 16:

“The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is forcing their way into it.

Luke 16.16-17:

Forcing their way in

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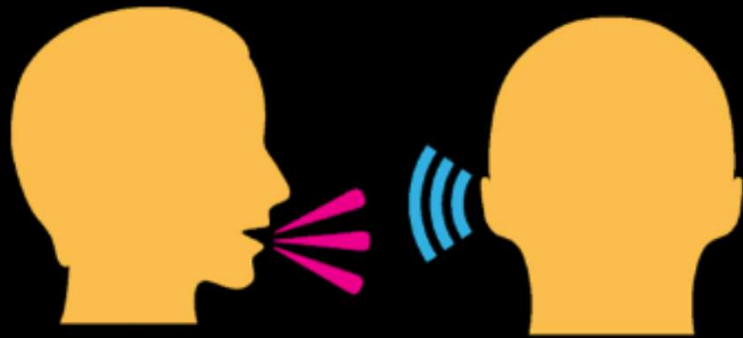




*People get ready
There's a train a comin'
You don't need no baggage you just get on board
All you need is faith
To hear the diesel comin'
Don't need no ticket you just thank the Lord*

Luke's Gospel

- The genius move from eschatology to evangelism
- From the eschatological crisis to the existential crisis
- Jesus focuses on the arrival of / entry into the kingdom, not on living in the kingdom.
- The stress on today – the moment of response.
- The crisis is not a far off judgement day, but today when God comes close and we have the chance to respond.
- 'The law remains' – moral living does matter, but Jesus' focus is on the party, not the morning after.



- What is your natural inclination?
- With Jesus focusing on today, the day of welcome?
- With John on teaching holiness for the long-term?



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Luke's Gospel

The focus is repeatedly on the now moment.

The moment of potential – revolutionary –
transformative - encounter with Jesus.

Luke - The Gospel of Response

Luke - The Gospel of Today

≡ THURSDAY ≡
9th JULY 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Thursday 9th July 2026



What is today,
the day for,
for you?



What is today,
the day for,
for you?





Jeremy Duff & Joanna Collicutt McGrath



Meeting Jesus

human responses
to a yearning god

PETER'S PREACHING

THE MESSAGE OF MARK'S GOSPEL
JEREMY DUFF

