Luke - Commentaries by Paul J. Pascoe

CareLines: Volume 3, Lord’s Death, The

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MAY 24

Moses and Elias: who appeared in glory, and spake of His decease which He should accomplish at Jerusalem.

Luke 9:31

Moses and Elijah could have visited with the Lord on numerous topics when they met Him on the mountaintop. Instead, they discussed Calvary. Perhaps the whole of heaven was occupied with the Lord’s imminent death, and so Moses and Elijah were just continuing what was the main topic of concern in heaven. How much are we occupied with Jesus and His death at Calvary? We commend this subject to you as one that warrants your special attention today. It’s the most important event that ever occurred on earth. And God will never forget it.

CareLines: Volume 2, Service: LUK 9:49-50

LUK 9:49-50

Master, we saw one casting out devils in Thy name; and we forbad him, because he followeth not with us. And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not.

Luke 9:49, 50

The disciples were confused. One who did not “belong to their group” was doing a service in Jesus’ name and they tried to stop him. This was not what Jesus wanted and so He said, “Don’t stop him.” What Jesus may also have been trying to teach the disciples (and us) is, don’t bother with what others are doing - you do your service as given by the Lord. We are each responsible to the Lord for what we do, not for what others do.

CareLines: Volume 2, Dedication: 1

LUK 9:23

If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

Luke 9:23

Following Christ requires dedication. Half-hearted following will not do. Something (no, all) of self must be given up. Deny, take up, follow. To deny means to give up something that pleases us. To take up the cross is putting into practice the service that the Lord has given us to do. This needs to be done on a daily basis. And then we need to follow the leading of the Lord in whatever path He has chosen for us. This is the happy path for the Christian.

CareLines: Volume 7, Giving

Susanna ... .. which ministered unto Him.

Luke 8:3

This woman gave to the Lord of her substance. In other words, she had something (whether it was food or clothes or whatever) and she gave it to Jesus, who had nothing. What a beautiful example for us. We can each be a Susanna and give to the Lord by giving to His people. We have so much. Let us be a witness for Christ by giving to others.

CareLines: Volume 3, Choked to Death

OCTOBER 15

Choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life . . .

Luke 8:14

What a sad end to what could have been a very productive life. Some hear the gospel and perhaps are really moved in their heart to believe. Then they meet with the usual routine (which doesn't change when you become a Christian) and the daily cares, riches, and pleasures of this life choke any indications of new life and they produce no fruit for God. Don't let the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life come between you and the Lord. You may end up being choked to death.

CareLines: Volume 3, Listen

LUK 8:18

Take heed therefore how ye hear.

Luke 8:18

The Lord reminds us that how we choose to hear His Word is recorded and will be manifested. Let us hear his Word with tender consciences and an eagerness to know and obey His will. We pray that none of us will for one moment deviate from His will in our lives, and that we will never question whether His will is better than ours. The Lord takes note, and will bless, those who hear with a good and honest heart.

CareLines: Volume 3, Compassion

JUNE 1

When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

Luke 7:13

One of the characteristics of the Lord was that He had compassion on those in trouble. We often see funeral processions and feel no particular compassion for those who mourn - we don't even know who they are. But Jesus cared very deeply for this widow in our verse. She had lost her only son. The Lord cared so much that He raised him back to life again. Jesus cares for you in your sorrow. "His compassions fail not. They are new every morning." He never runs out of compassion.

CareLines: Volume 2, Offence

LUK 7:23

And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in Me.

Luke 7:23

These were the Lord's parting words to the messengers from John the Baptist. They had witnessed many mighty works of power to others; but it was not the Lord's will to use that power to deliver John from prison. John may have felt forsaken as he faced the executioner but the Lord pronounces a special blessing on those who remain faithful to Him in adversity or loneliness. Do you see others acting in the power of the Lord while your prayers seem to go unanswered? Remember John in prison. There's a special blessing for those who are not offended in Jesus.

CareLines: Volume 7, Hospitality

He made as though He would have gone further.

Luke 24:28

Jesus never forces His company on us. He wants to be with us and share Himself with us, but not if we don't want Him. Jesus had just walked a few miles with a couple who were sad because their Messiah had been crucified. They were puzzled about a report that stated that His grave was found empty. The Lord explained the Scriptures to them and, when they reached their home, it looked like He was going on. But they liked His company and invited Him in. What a wonderful surprise when they discovered that this "stranger" was none other than Jesus Himself.

CareLines: Volume 3, Risen

OCTOBER 18

He is not here, but is risen.

Luke 24:6

“Why do you come looking for the living among the dead?He is not here - He’s risen” is what the angels said.Death could never hold Him, He’d risen from the grave.He gave His life - He’s living again!

CareLines: Volume 3, Jesus Himself

SEPTEMBER 16

Jesus Himself drew near, and went with them.

Luke 24:15

Here were a couple of people who were deeply distressed and puzzled because their “Messiah” had been crucified. He had died and had been buried. Now there was a rumor that He was alive again. And in the middle of their discussion, Jesus Himself comes along and walks with them. Now they are totally occupied with Him and what He is teaching them. Their hearts are bubbling up with an excitement that wasn’t there before. Instead of feeling sorry for themselves, they were listening to Jesus talk - and they were at peace. Have you spent time with Jesus lately?

CareLines: Volume 3, Communion

LUK 24:15

While they communed together and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near, and went with them.

Luke 24:15

This is a very encouraging verse. Perhaps this couple was in the valley of despair - really discouraged. They couldn’t understand why the One whom they thought was their Messiah had died. All their hopes had gone. But the news that morning was that the cave where Jesus had been buried was empty. What could it all mean? Then Jesus comes and walks with them. Their hearts burn as He talks to them and gently explains all the Scriptures that pointed to Himself. Then they recognize Him and He vanishes. But in their great joy they rush back to Jerusalem to tell the news. Communion with Jesus brings joy.

CareLines: Volume 2, Worship

LUK 24:52

And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

Luke 24:52

The disciples had just watched Jesus go up into heaven. During the previous three-and-a-half years they had come to know Him as the Son of God. They had seen Him die. They had witnessed His resurrection for forty days. And now they had seen His glorious ascension to heaven. No wonder they worshipped Him. No wonder their hearts were full of joy. Even now, almost two thousand years later, our hearts should be full of praise and worship as we consider the Lord’s birth, His life, His death, His resurrection, His ascension, and soon - His coming again.

CareLines: Volume 3, Look, The

APRIL 14

And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter.

Luke 22:61

The look that melted Peter’s heart;That caused the bitter tears;Was a silent word of tenderness,Sounding loud in Peter’s ears.Remembering what he had doneHe wept so bitterly.He left the warmth of worldly fires - The LOOK had set Him free.

“Whosoever . . . will be a friend of the world IS the enemy of God.”

James 4:4.

CareLines: Volume 3, Rejection

NOVEMBER 15

But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned . . . saying . . . Come, let us kill him.

Luke 20:14

The husbandmen in this parable, told by the Lord, referred to the Jewish nation. The one they saw coming was the Lord Jesus, their Messiah. And their response was to kill Him. Yes, Jesus, the Son of God, was not wanted when He came to earth and was rejected by His own people. Thanks to God, though, that by His rejection the way to heaven has been opened, and you and I can go in.

CareLines: Volume 3, Remember

SEPTEMBER 24

Remember Lot’s wife.

Luke 17:32

Remember Lot’s wife? What was her name? It doesn’t say. So what are we to remember? Simply this - she loved the world more than God’s Word, and He turned her instantly into a pillar of salt. Have you a hankering for the world? Remember Lot’s wife. Has God asked you to do something and you don’t feel like doing it? Remember Lot’s wife. Will God, in the end, change His mind and not punish unbelievers? Remember Lot’s wife.

CareLines: Volume 3, Thanks

SEPTEMBER 22

And one of them . . . fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks.

Luke 17:15,16

Have you thanked the Lord lately? There’s so much to thank Him for - friends, family, health, home, work - not to mention all the eternal blessings that are waiting for us at the end of the journey. We often ask the Lord for things. But don’t forget to say, “Thanks, Lord.”

CareLines: Volume 3, Thankfulness

APRIL 29

Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

Luke 17:17

You can almost hear the disappointment in the Lord’s question. And how “disappointed” He must be when we forget to thank Him. Yes, the Lord wants us to come to Him with thankfulness - for everything: salvation, a home in heaven, present blessings that we often take for granted. Don’t forget to say “Thanks, Lord.” He notices when you don’t.

CareLines: Volume 3, Thanks

LUK 17:15-16

One of them . . . fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks.

Luke 17:15, 16

This man, found at Jesus’ feet, was extremely thankful to the Lord. He had left the Lord’s presence a leper but on the way to the high priest he noticed that he was cured. So he went back to thank Jesus. We often ask the Lord for things. Always our prayers are answered. Do we thank Him for the answer (even if it’s not what we wanted)? When was the last time that you said “Thank you” to the Lord?

CareLines: Volume 3, Choice

OCTOBER 17

No servant can serve two masters. . . . Ye cannot serve God and mammon [or, money].

Luke 16:13

It is impossible for anything to go in two opposite directions at the same time. You can’t take a vacation on the beach in California and, at the same time, sit on the beach in Florida. So it is in spiritual things. You can’t serve God and money - at the same time or at the same level. One will always take priority over the other. Who is your master?

CareLines: Volume 3, Give

OCTOBER 16

Father, give me.

Luke 15:12

“ ‘Father, give me’ - all that is mine;I want to be free and have a good time.I’m going to give parties and have lots of girls.I’m tired of living cut off from the world.”But when all his money was gone - so were they.Left lonely and hungry, repentant he prayed.He returned to his Father who received him with joy;Not now rebellious but a different young boy.

“Father, I have sinned.” Luke 15:21.

CareLines: Volume 7, Bondage

Satan hath bound . . . eighteen years.

Luke 13:16

What did baseball legend Mickey Mantle and Grateful Dead singer Jerry Garcia have in common? They were both in bondage - addicts, bound by Satan as slaves to drink and/or drugs. And the list goes on. Famous? Oh, yes. Rich? Certainly. But, sadly, in complete bondage to the hardest taskmaster ever - Satan. Only the Lord Jesus can break those bonds. No one else is strong enough, nor are fame, talent or money. Give yourself to the Lord Jesus and let Him set you free.

CareLines: Volume 7, Help

But a certain Samaritan. . . came where he was.

Luke 10:33

At last there is one who is willing to help - not by patching up the outside, but by personally cleansing the wounds. Have you been beaten by Satan, left half-naked and half-dead? Jesus is willing to help you. He is the only one who can. Let Him lift you up, heal you, and restore you to full communion with God.

CareLines: Volume 7, No Help

A certain priest . . . passed by.

A Levite . . . passed by.

Luke 10:31-32

Religion and law cannot help us. Nothing but the personal intervention of Jesus is powerful enough to overcome the devastation caused by Satan’s attacks. Religion and law might be able to cover up the outside with good looks and proper appearance, but they cannot change the heart.

CareLines: Volume 7, Beaten

A certain man . . . fell among thieves, which . . . wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

Luke 10:30

The first time Satan attacks us and we give in, we lose our outer protection. The more we mess in Satan’s realm, we find that he leaves us so helpless that we cannot recover. Our traveler here was left half-dead. That’s all that Satan can give in the end - death. Oh, that our spirit will not be so crushed by the enemy that there is no power to get back to God.

CareLines: Volume 2, Service: LUK 10:33

LUK 10:33

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion on him.

Luke 10:33

What’s the difference between pity and compassion? The priest and the Levite (in the Good Samaritan story) may have had pity on the injured man, but the Samaritan had compassion on him.

Pity + action = compassion. Compassion in action is one aspect of service. Let’s activate our compassion button. Let it show.

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