

# **THE REALLY GOOD LIFE**

**(Life of Christ Series)**  
**Study of the Gospel of Luke**

## **Last Call Crusade** **(Then)**

Is the return of the Lord Jesus Christ near? If so, how near is it? Are there some preliminary signs we should be alert to as we await Messiah's return? In His first coming as Savior, Jesus' last few months of ministry were an enigmatic mixture of calm and urgency. This spiritual sense of urgency to get the gospel out quickly one more time, mitigated with an inner peace that passes understanding, seems to reflect the mood and ministry of Jesus as He approached the end of His first advent trip to earth. For those of us in whom He now dwells by His Spirit, there is a quiet excitement and sense of urgency that Jesus is coming again ... soon!

As Jesus focused on the main purpose of His first coming – *His substitutionary sacrifice on the cross for our sins* – there was a change in His countenance, deportment, mood and approach to ministry. He ‘set His face like a flint for Jerusalem’ (**Isaiah 50:6-7, Luke 9:51-53**). With the 33 year long stay on earth near an end, it was strictly business during the last 5 or 6 months before the cross. Even His disciples could detect Jesus’ intense seriousness was escalating with urgency to reach out with the gospel message prior to His death, burial and resurrection (**Mark 10:32-34**).

A new place of operation had been set up in the region of Perea, just northeast of the Dead Sea, becoming the staging area for a few final ventures into Judea and Jerusalem in the final winter months before His passion (**Matthew 19:1-2, Mark 10:1, John 10:40-41**). The Lord was also coordinating all His activities around the fall festivals – The Feast of Tabernacles for recruiting ‘the 70’ who would blitz Judea with the gospel one last time in late October and early November of AD 29 (**John 7:1-14**), The Feast of The Dedication or Hanukkah (December) at which He revealed Himself as THE Good Shepherd and the God-Man (**John 10:22-39**). And finally, His coming back to Jerusalem in April of AD 30 to personally fulfill the spring festivals of Passover, Unleavened Bread and First Fruits (**1 Corinthians 5:7-8 & 15:20-24**).

## **(Now?)**

In the final months of Jesus' first advent there was a heightened sense of urgency about spiritual priorities for Him and His closest followers. Likewise, today followers of Jesus Christ should not be at all surprised if a growing sense of anticipation and urgency draws them closer to the Savior as He begins to wrap up final details before He returns. Remaining witnessing opportunities or ministry responsibilities needing attention before the Lord Jesus comes again (**2 Peter 3:10-14**) must be completed. It may be important that we are currently in that same time of year (autumn to December) when the things we are now studying took place the first time the Son of God was here. **Rosh Hashanah** (the Feast of Trumpets or Jewish New Year) was this week; **Yom Kippur** (the Day of Atonement) comes 10 days later and **Sukkoth** (the Feast of Tabernacles) begins 5 days after and continues for 8 days. Although we cannot know precisely when Jesus will return, it would not be at all surprising if when He does so to evacuate true Christians (**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18**), that it happens during these *high holy days* of Israel.

At His first advent, His cross, burial and resurrection fulfilled, on the very days they were being celebrated, the 3 spring holidays of Passover, Unleavened Bread and First Fruits. 50 days later, He literally fulfilled the meaning of Pentecost by pouring out the Holy Spirit upon the church (**Acts 2:32-33**). Since God always does things ‘**decently and in order**’ (see **1 Corinthians 14:40**), it would be quite consistent for Jesus’ second coming to coordinate just as perfectly with the remaining 3 fall holidays of Trumpets, Atonement and Tabernacles. Again, we don’t know when exactly, but ‘the signs of the times’ and the spiritual urgency felt by dedicated believers seems to indicate this is a good season for increased faithfulness and fruitfulness in the things of God just in case His coming is nearer than we may think (**Romans 13:11-14**).

## Luke's Unique Section

(Chapters 10 – 19)

### Luke's Literary Interlude

What happened during those last months of Jesus' ministry between September of AD 29 and April of AD 30? Matthew and Mark, who have been apparent sources for Luke until now, don't write about this time period. The Apostle John does record a few events but not until long after Luke (Luke writes about AD 60 and John's gospel wasn't written until around AD 85-90). Luke got his supplemental information from other apostles, eyewitnesses (*Luke 1:1-4*) or directly from the Holy Spirit Who was guiding him in this literary masterpiece (*2 Peter 1:20-21*). Of the approximately 30 parables taught by Jesus, 21 of them are found only here in the Bible. Only a few specially selected miraculous healings are mentioned with the resurrection of Lazarus omitted for some reason. There are numerous mysteries about why Luke was led to include and exclude what he did as he wrote under the Holy Spirit's filling and guidance. For the astute Bible student who truly seeks to understand, this part of Luke's gospel is full of awesome spiritual depth and wisdom. It is like an artistic literary interlude of a masterpiece drama, just before the curtain lifts for the final act in a play. The plethora of parables act as literary instrumentation during which the audience meditates on all that's been observed thus far, in order to fully appreciate the coming dramatic finale (*chapters 19-24*). Ask God to give us pause to think during this wonderful portion of God's Word, in order to see our Lord's passion and sacrifice for us with clearer spiritual vision and greater depth of insight than ever before.

## THE GREAT 'GO-MISSION'

(*The Lord's Sending of the 70*)

Luke 10:1-16

### The 'Go-Missioned'

(*The Apostles & The Appointed*)

"After these things the Lord appointed 70 others and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. Then He said, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go your way; behold I send you out as lambs among wolves." 10:1-3

HIS appointment  
(go as a team)

Your 'point'  
(labor & pray)

The opponent  
(wolves in sheep's clothing)

### The 'Go-Missioning'

(*The Simple, Purpose-Driven Life*)

"Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road. But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house'. And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, 'The very dust of your city which clings to us we wipe off against you. Nevertheless, know this that the kingdom of God has come near you.' 10:4-11

A simple lifestyle  
(enough is enough!)

A simple social life  
(God's friends are my friends)

A simple purpose  
(to say, 'You've been told')

### The 'Go-Missioner'

(*The Truth About the Consequences*)

"But I say to you that it will be more tolerable in that Day for Sodom than for that city. Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades. He who hears you, hears Me; he who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects Him Who sent Me." 10:13-16

Truth about Judgment Day  
(you will be accountable)

Truth about repentance  
(you have it if you have Him)

Truth about Jesus  
(your choice - Savior or Judge?)