# THE WAY OF JESUS

# Flourishing Life

The Gospel of Luke:
Vol II



A Series Study Guide

March 2026

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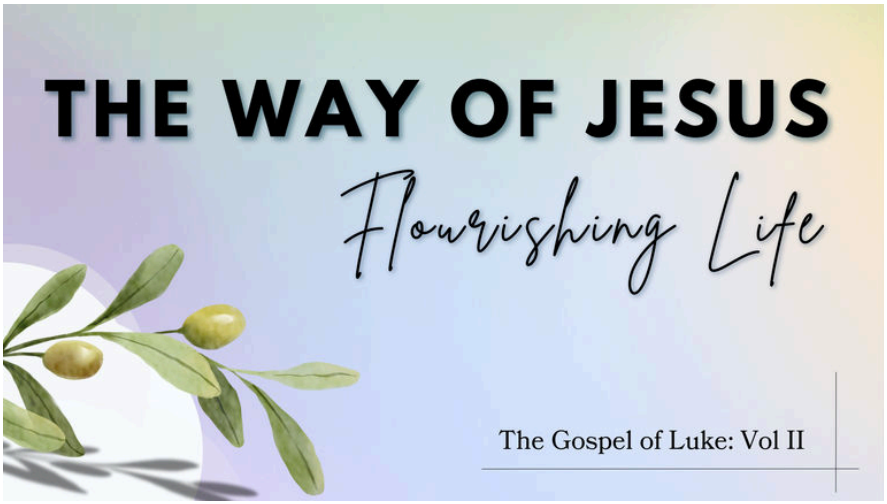



# The Way of Flourishing Life

## An Invitation to Follow Jesus through the Second Half of Luke

If the first half of Luke's Gospel invites us to sit at the feet of Jesus, to know His heart and experience the awe of His miracles, then the second half invites us to get up and follow Him—step by step, story by story, toward Jerusalem, the cross, and beyond.

Beginning in chapter 9, Luke shifts the focus of his narrative. Jesus "resolutely set out for Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51), and everything changes. From this point on, we are not simply observers—we're called to be disciples. We're drawn into the journey of following Jesus, and with that comes a question that echoes through every chapter: Will you come with Him?

This road is not easy. It is marked by costly love, radical mercy, and life-giving surrender. Following Jesus isn't about checking boxes or mastering doctrine. It's about

orienting our entire lives around His—being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and doing what Jesus did. This is the way of true discipleship. Joining Jesus on this path towards the cross, however, is also the way of true flourishing.

In a world chasing comfort, status, and self-preservation, Jesus offers something altogether different: deep peace, a grounded sense of purpose, and an unshakable hope. This is the abundant life He promised—not free from suffering, but full of meaning. Not ease, but joy. Not self-fulfillment, but a life poured out for others.

As you journey through these chapters of Luke, may your eyes be opened to the surprising beauty of the cross-shaped life. May you hear Jesus' call anew. And may you discover, in the shadow of sacrifice, the light of flourishing life.

## Practicing the Way

The way of Jesus isn't something we admire from a distance—it's a life we step into.

Luke has shown us what that life looks like: Jesus walking with people, welcoming the broken, speaking truth, carrying the cross, and pouring Himself out in love. Now, we respond. His way becomes our way.

This life doesn't flourish by accident. It's cultivated through daily, deliberate choices. We orient our lives around three pursuits that shape us as followers of Jesus:

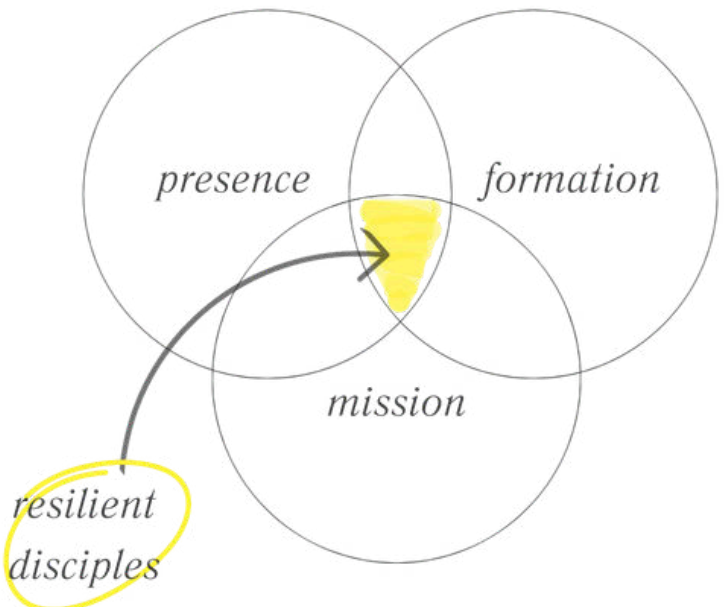
**Be with Jesus.**
**Become like Jesus.**
**Do what Jesus did.**

Jesus' disciples - then and now - flourish at the convergence of PRESENCE, FORMATION, and MISSION.

**PRESENCE // To be with Jesus**
Flourishing begins not with doing, but with abiding. We create space to slow down, to listen, to be still in His presence. Through rhythms of prayer, Scripture, and worship, we live in ongoing communion with the God who draws near. This is where peace and clarity begin.

**FORMATION // To become like Jesus**
We are all being formed by something. As disciples, we choose to be shaped by Jesus—His character, His priorities, His way. Formation happens as we submit to His Word, practice new habits, and let community refine us. Over time, our lives begin to reflect His.

**MISSION // To do what Jesus did**
Flourishing isn't kept to itself—it's shared. Jesus' way leads outward, into neighborhoods, schools, workplaces, and the margins. We serve, invite, give, and live with gospel intentionality. The same Spirit that empowered Jesus now sends and empowers us.



This is the way of Jesus. It's not always easy, but it is always worth it. As we walk in His presence, open our lives to His formation, and join Him on mission, we discover the very thing our souls were made for: flourishing life.

# Additional Resources

*Practicing the Way*, John Mark Comer (Unpacking the rhythms of discipleship: to be with Jesus, to become like Jesus, to do what Jesus did.)

*Luke (NIV Application Commentary),* Darrell Bock (A deeply studied but pastoral account of Luke's gospel.)

*Luke for Everyone*, N.T. Wright (Helpful and accessible commentary on Luke's gospel and its background.)

*Following King Jesus*, Scot McKnight (Offers rich insight into the gospels, with strong themes of discipleship, mission, and Kingdom.)

*God in My Everything*, Ken Shigematsu (Grounded in the rhythms of Jesus but adapted for busy people, a great tool for becoming like Jesus.)

*How to Pray*, Pete Greig (Accessible and Spirit-filled introduction to prayer--for beginners and experienced Jesus-followers alike.)

*Joining Jesus on His Mission*, Greg Finke (A helpful guide for normal people wanting to live on mission in daily life.)

*Miracle Work*, Jordan Seng (Explores how ordinary believers can join Jesus' supernatural work--to do what Jesus did.)

*Till We Have Faces*, C.S. Lewis (A deep and reflective novel which explores the themes of spiritual formation.)

# The Way of Jesus
## Week 1

Date:
Speaker:
Main Scripture: Luke 17v20-37

SERMON TITLE

In Your Midst

| Main Points \| Verses Used | Notes |
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REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

## Quotes:

“The message of Jesus was that God’s sovereign rule was arriving, not simply that people were going to heaven.”
- Tom Wright

“The kingdom of God is the range of God’s effective will, where what he wants done is done.”
- Dallas Willard

“The greatest enemy to the life you want may be the life you’re living.”
- John Mark Comer

## Week 1: Reflect and Discuss

1. Jesus says the kingdom is already “in your midst” (v21). Where in your ordinary week might the King already be present that you tend to overlook? What might be shaping what you expect the kingdom to look like?

2. If “you see what you’re looking for,” what would it look like to actively look for signs of the Kingdom in your midst this week? What is one space (work, home, neighborhood, church) where you want to practice attentiveness?

3. Jesus warns against chasing claims of special insight. What fuels spiritual restlessness in you: fear? control? curiosity?

4. Jesus calls us to live lightly. What would open-handed living look like practically in your finances, schedule, or ambitions?

5. In Noah and Lot’s day, life was simply “normal.” What forms of busyness or routine most easily dull your awareness of God?

6. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

7. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

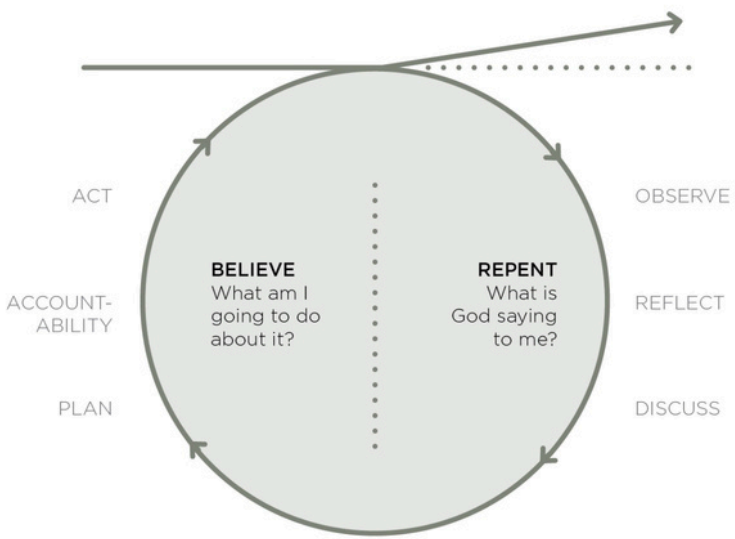
"'The time has come,' Jesus said.
'The Kingdom of God has come near.
Repent and believe the good news.'"
- Jesus (Mark 1v15)

Jesus tells us the kingdom is already among us, but many miss it. Not because God is absent, but because we are distracted.

The question isn't "When will God act?" It's "Can I see what He's already doing?"

The Kairos Circle helps us notice where God is already at work and respond with obedience.

Start on the right side of the circle and move clockwise.




**1. OBSERVE + REFLECT + DISCUSS**
What happened? A conflict. A frustration. A prompting. A conversation that lingered. A verse that jumped off the page. This may be your Kairos moment, a meaningful moment where God is inviting growth.

Move from observing the moment to reflecting: God, why did

this stick with me? What are you trying to say to me?

Sometimes we need to invite some trusted eyes into our lives. This is where discussion comes in. Share the moment with a trusted friend, mentor, or someone in your House Church.

Kingdom awareness deepens in community.

**2. PLAN + ACCOUNTABILITY + ACT**
A disciple is someone who hears from God and (this part is critical) *does what He says*. So if God is getting your attention, what is He inviting you to do about it?

Choose one concrete step. Tell someone. Follow through.

Here's an example of what this might look like:
You notice you've been impatient and short with folks all week.

**Observe**: I'm reactive and anxious.
**Reflect**: I'm living hurried and overloaded. I'm living like I believe productivity defines me rather that God's love.
**Discuss**: I share this conviction with a friend via a text message.

**Plan**: I feel led to protect one evening this week for rest and refreshment. I want to slow down and be present to God.
**Accountability**: I tell my friend what I'm going to do – and ask them to follow-up with me about how it went.
**Act**: Do the thing!

That's the kingdom breaking in, not through spectacle, but surrender.

**Practice: Kairos Circle**
Use the Kairos Circle this week to notice where God is at work in an ordinary moment and respond with one concrete step of obedience.

# The Way of Jesus
## Week 2

Date:
Speaker:
Main Scripture: Luke 18v1-8

SERMON TITLE

The Prayer We Almost Gave Up On

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## REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

**Quote:**

“When we decide that we want Him more than we want His stuff… we are rewired.”
- Pete Greig

“Prayer doesn’t force God’s hand; it forms our hearts.”
- Tyler Staton

“It’s possible to trust even when we don’t understand.”
- Pete Greig

**Week 2: Reflect and Discuss**

1. Jesus says, “Pray always and do not lose heart” (18v1). Where are you most tempted to lose heart in prayer right now? What makes prayer feel slow, uncertain, or discouraging for you?

2. What is something you’ve stopped bringing to God because you assume it won’t change anything? Why did you stop praying about it? What would it look like to bring it back into conversation with Him?

3. The widow has no leverage, only persistence. When you pray, do you find yourself trying to perform, persuade, or control? What would it look like to return to simple, steady trust?

4. The unjust judge is a contrast, not a comparison. How do you instinctively imagine God when you pray: reluctant, distant, attentive, compassionate? Where did that picture of God come from?

5. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

6. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

## Practice: Prayer Audit

"Prayer is the place
where we become
honest before God."
- Richard J. Foster

"Pray always and do not lose heart" (Luke 18v1, ESV). Jesus knows how easy it is to lose heart in prayer.

Most of us don't stop praying all at once. Prayer slowly fades. We stop bringing certain things to God. We quietly give up when answers don't come quickly.

This week, instead of trying to pray harder, slow down long enough to notice your current prayer life. This is not about performance. It's about awareness.

Set aside 10–15 quiet minutes. Ask the Spirit to help you be honest and gentle with yourself as you reflect.

**1. Frequency/Rhythm**
Where does prayer naturally show up right now? Is prayer mostly rushed or spacious? Reactive or relational? Consistent or occasional?

Don't judge it — just notice.

**2. Content (What Do You Pray About)**
What fills most of your prayers? Needs? People you love? Worries? Gratitude? Guidance?

What rarely comes up?

Sometimes what's missing says as much as what's present.

**3. Avoidance (Unprayed Prayers)**
Are there things you've stopped bringing to God? Dreams. Burdens. Questions. Longings.

Ask honestly: Where have I assumed nothing will change?
What feels too small, too hard, or too disappointing to pray about?

**4. Endurance (Abandoned Prayers)**
What did you once pray for consistently but quietly gave up on?
What happened in your heart when the answer didn't come?
Did disappointment change how you approach God?

Bring that prayer back into the light, even if it's only a whisper.

**5. View of God**
What is your prayer life revealing about how you view God?
Does God seem attentive or distant? Are you approaching God with trust or quiet skepticism?

Is prayer keeping my heart soft or have I grown numb?
What might God be forming in me through waiting?

**Your Next Step:**
The audit isn't the finish line; it's the starting point.

Choose one simple response:

- Restart one forgotten prayer.
- Set aside a small daily moment to return to God.
- Tell someone what you're praying for so you don't carry it alone.

The invitation isn't to pray perfectly.
It's to keep coming.

**A Closing Prayer**
Jesus, You know how easily my heart drifts.
Teach me to keep coming to You.
Help me trust You in the waiting.
Keep my faith alive through prayer.

# The Way of Jesus
## Week 3

Date:

Speaker:

Main Scripture: Luke 18v9-17

SERMON TITLE

The Wrong Way to Pray

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REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

**Quote:**

“Humility is the place of entire dependence on God.”
- Andrew Murray

“The essence of gospel-humility is not thinking more of myself or thinking less of myself, it is thinking of myself less.”
- Timothy Keller

## Week 3: Reflect and Discuss

1. The Pharisee’s prayer sounds thankful but is built on comparison. Where are you most tempted to compare yourself spiritually to others? How might that comparison affect your relationship with God?

2. The tax collector simply asks for mercy. What makes it hard to come to God with honest need? Where do you tend to hide weakness or struggle from God or others?

3. Humility is not self-hatred but honest dependence. What is the difference between humility and shame in your experience?

4. Jesus says the tax collector goes home justified. What does it mean practically to come to God empty-handed? What are you tempted to bring as leverage or proof of worth?

5. What qualities of a child do you think Jesus is highlighting here?

6. Both stories invite dependence rather than self-sufficiency. Where in your life do you find it hardest to depend on God?

7. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

8. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

## Practice: Empty Hands Prayer

"Humility is the place
of entire dependence on God."
- Andrew Murray

Jesus contrasts two ways of approaching God.

One comes full: full of accomplishment, comparison, and self-reliance.

The other comes empty: aware of need, open to mercy.

Jesus says the kingdom belongs to those who come like children: open-handed, ready to receive.

This week, practice coming to God with empty hands.

**Step 1: Begin with Posture**
Sit quietly for a moment. Place your hands open on your lap, palms up. Let your body teach your heart:
I come with nothing to prove.
Nothing to earn.
Nothing to defend.
Simply present.

**Step 2: Notice What You're Carrying**
Ask gently: What am I bringing to God right now?
Pressure to perform?
Comparison?
Shame?
Pride?
The need to look strong?

Name it honestly.

**Step 3: Release**
One by one, imagine placing those things into God's hands.

You might pray quietly:
“Jesus, I release my need to prove myself.”
“I release comparison.”
“I release the pressure to have it together.”
Let your hands remain open.

**Step 4: Receive Mercy**
Pray the prayer of the tax collector:
“God, have mercy on me.”
Stay there for a moment.
No striving.
No explaining.
Just receiving.

**Step 5: Receive Like a Child**
Ask: What does God want to give me right now?
Peace? Rest? Acceptance? Love? Grace for today?

You don’t earn it. You receive it.

**Step 6: Carry This Into Your Week**
Throughout the week, pause and open your hands again, even for 10 seconds.

Let it be a reminder: The kingdom is received, not achieved.

This practice matters because the real danger Jesus names is subtle self-sufficiency. We can drift into striving, comparison, and quiet pride without realizing it.

Opening our hands trains our hearts to depend on mercy instead of merit. Over time, this posture reshapes how we pray, how we relate to others, and how we live before God.

**Closing Prayer**
Jesus, I come with empty hands.
Teach me to trust Your mercy more than my own effort.
Help me receive what You freely give.

# The Way of Jesus
## Week 4

Date:
Speaker:
Main Scripture: Luke 18v18-30

SERMON TITLE

From Success to Surrender

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REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

**Quote:**

“Grace is not opposed to effort; it is opposed to earning.”
- Dallas Willard,

“You can control things or you can surrender to God, but you cannot do both.”
- John Mark Comer

## Week 4: Reflect and Discuss

1. The ruler is moral, sincere, and respected. Why do you think Jesus doesn’t simply affirm him? How can spiritual success quietly become spiritual self-reliance?

2. Jesus exposes something deeper than behavior. Where is it easiest for you to rely on outward faithfulness rather than inner dependence on God? What helps you notice that difference?

3. Jesus lovingly names the one area the ruler cannot release. If Jesus said that to you, what might the “one thing” be?

4. The ruler walks away sad, not hostile. Why do you think surrender often feels like loss before it feels like freedom? Have you experienced that tension before?

5. This passage isn’t about heroic sacrifice but trusting Jesus more. How does surrender differ from simply giving something up?

6. Jesus says what is impossible for humans is possible with God. How does this passage shift the focus from your effort to God’s grace?

7. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

8. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

## Practice: One Thing

When the rich ruler comes to Jesus, the conversation turns on one sentence:
“One thing you still lack…” (Luke 18v22)

Jesus doesn’t give him a long list. He names one thing. Not to shame him. Not to take something away. Jesus looks at him with love and gently exposes the one place where trust is divided.

The invitation is the same for us. This week, instead of trying to fix everything, simply ask: What might be my one thing right now?

**1. Begin with Stillness**
Find a quiet moment. Take a breath and pray: “Jesus, You see me and You love me. Show me what You want me to see.”

Don’t rush. Let your day, your mind, your heart... slow down in the presence of Jesus.

**2. Ask the Question**
Reflect honestly: What feels hardest to release or trust God with?

It may not be obvious sin. Often it’s something good that has become a source of security.

Examples:

- Control over outcomes
- Success or competence
- Financial security
- Comfort or predictability
- Approval or reputation
- A future plan or timeline

The goal is not guilt — just clarity.

**3. Notice What It Gives You**
Ask gently: What does this provide for me? Safety? Identity? Control? Worth?

Understanding why we cling helps us surrender honestly.

**4. Hear Jesus' Love**
Before moving forward, remember: "Jesus looked at him and loved him." Jesus names the one thing not to condemn us, but to invite us into freedom.

Surrender begins with love.

**5. Take One Small Step**
Choose one simple act this week that loosens your grip. Not dramatic. Just honest.

Examples: Release control of an outcome in prayer. Delay a decision and ask God first. Give generously without recognition. Admit need and ask for help. Let go of needing to be right or impressive.

Small acts train the heart to trust.

**6. Reflect**
At the end of the week, ask:

- What did I feel when I loosened my grip?
- What did this reveal about what I trust?
- Where did I sense freedom or resistance?

Surrender is not a single moment. It is a lifelong posture of trust.

**Why This Practice Matters**
The greatest barrier to following Jesus is often not obvious failure but quiet self-sufficiency. The "one thing" practice helps us notice where we rely on something other than Jesus for life and security. As we surrender one small area, we (re)discover that the kingdom is received, not achieved.

# The Way of Jesus
## Week 5

Date:
Speaker:
Main Scripture: Luke 18v31-43

SERMON TITLE

All The More

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REFLECTIONS

Reflect on how to apply today's sermon to your life

**Quote:**

“Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness.”
- Martin Luther

“Faith is the gaze of a soul upon a saving God.”
- A.W. Tozer

**Week 5: Reflect and Discuss**

1. The disciples are close to Jesus but don’t understand – and don’t ask. Where might familiarity with Jesus or church life have reduced your curiosity or expectancy? When do you find yourself staying quiet instead of pressing in?

2. The blind beggar refuses to stay silent. What difference do you notice between passive faith and desperate faith? Where in your life do you need more spiritual urgency?

3. The crowd tries to silence the beggar. What voices (internal or external) tend to quiet your faith or prayers?

4. The beggar’s prayer is simple: “Have mercy on me.” Why is asking for mercy sometimes difficult?

5. Jesus asks, “What do you want me to do for you?” If Jesus asked you that today, how would you answer?

6. Breakthrough often comes to those who keep seeking Jesus. What is one practical way you can keep asking, keep crying out, or keep following this week? Who can help you?

7. How is God calling you to respond to this passage? Try writing an “I will” statement (“I will _____”) that captures your response. Then, go and do!

8. Who can you tell about how God has met you in His Word? Pray for an opportunity to share it with them.

## Practice: Keep Crying Out

As Jesus moves toward Jerusalem, the disciples walk beside Him yet fail to understand what He is saying. They are close, but quiet.

Then Luke introduces a blind beggar who cannot see but refuses to stay silent. When he hears that Jesus is passing by, he cries out for mercy. The crowd tries to silence him, but he shouts all the more. Jesus stops. Mercy leads to sight, and sight leads to following.

This story brings the whole chapter together. Kingdom faith is not perfect understanding; it is persistent dependence. The blind beggar becomes a picture of discipleship, honest about need, bold in asking, and ready to rise when Jesus calls.

As you study this passage, notice how the movement of the story mirrors the life of a disciple:

Be with Jesus — keep seeking Him.
Become like Jesus — grow in His heart, pace, and compassion.
Do what Jesus did — notice, stop, and respond.

The goal is not just insight.
The goal is obedience.

Take time this week to go deeper with this story:

**1. Read the Passage**
Read Luke 18:35–43 slowly.

**2. Observe: What Do You Notice?**
Stay close to the text.

- What do you notice about the blind man?
- What do you notice about the crowd?
- What do you notice about Jesus?
- What words or actions stand out?

**3. Reflect — What Does This Show Us?**

About Jesus

- What makes Jesus stop?
- What does this reveal about His heart?

About People

- Why do you think the crowd tries to silence the man?
- What does the beggar's persistence teach us about faith?

About Discipleship

- How does this story help me imagine what it looks like to be with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and do what Jesus did?

**4. Obedience: Your "I Will" Statement**

Take a quiet moment and ask: What is one thing I will do this week in light of this passage?

Write it clearly: I will…

Make it simple and specific. Now, go and do!

The story ends with the man following Jesus on the road. This week, keep asking. Keep crying out.

And rise to follow when Jesus calls.

**Prayer:**

Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.
Help me see You clearly, trust You deeply,
and follow You faithfully wherever You lead.
Amen.

**Next Steps**
While our study in Luke will continue, let's pause and look at some resources for what's next in our journey. What's your next step:

**Want more information about a House Church?**
House Churches are located all around our valley and are designed to help us practice the way of Jesus: being with Jesus; becoming like Jesus; doing what Jesus did. House Church is a safe place to go deeper with Jesus and in community: www.findcommunity.com/housechurch

**Discovery Bible Study**
March 9, 6:30pm

God's Word has the power to transform lives and Discovery Bible Study is a simple, practical way to help others engage Scripture for themselves. More than just reading, it's a disciple-making tool that invites people to listen, obey, and share God's Word in community. Come learn the why, the how, and take a step into making disciples through God's Word. Help others meet God in scripture. RSVP or more information: www.findcommunity.com/events

**Discipleship Lab: Disciple-Makers Pathway**
Monday, April 13 | 6:30-8:00pm

Disciple-Maker Pathway is a six-week journey designed to help you live activated in God's work right where you live, learn, work and play. Through intentional prayer and simple relational practices, this course equips ordinary people to recognize where God is already at work and join Him there. Come step into God's disciple-making mission right where you already are.

RSVP or more information:
www.findcommunity.com/events

**NOTES:**

COMMUNITY
CHURCH RANCHO