

# Jesus on...

## “Fake News”



**Studies for the Book of Luke - Chapters 12-15**  
**Term 1 2018**



# JESUS ON "FAKE NEWS"

## CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION FROM KERRY NAGEL</b>				<b>4</b>
<b>STUDY ONE:</b>	<b>Week beginning</b> 29 Jan	<b>Sermon date</b> 3 / 4 Feb	<b>ON BEING REAL</b> Luke 12:1-12	<b>5</b>
<b>STUDY TWO:</b>	5 Feb	10 / 11 Feb	<b>RICH BEFORE GOD?</b> Luke 12:13-34	<b>8</b>
<b>STUDY THREE:</b>	12 Feb	17 / 18 Feb	<b>WAITING WELL</b> Luke 12:35-59	<b>12</b>
<b>STUDY FOUR:</b>	19 Feb	24 / 25 Feb	<b>RESPONDING TO JESUS</b> Luke 13:1-17	<b>16</b>
-----				
<b>MISSION WEEK</b>	<b>Dan and Liv Webster visit</b> 3 / 4 Mar for Traditional, Morning and Night 10 / 11 Mar for Saturday and ARVO			
-----				
<b>STUDY FIVE:</b>	26 Feb or 5 Mar or Mission visit	11 Mar	<b>ENTERING GOD'S KINGDOM</b> Luke 13:18-35	<b>20</b>
<b>STUDY SIX:</b>	12 Mar	17 / 18 Mar	<b>PARTYING WELL</b> Luke 14:1-24	<b>24</b>
<b>STUDY SEVEN:</b>	19 Mar	24 / 25 Mar	<b>COUNTING THE COST</b> Luke 14:25-35	<b>28</b>
-----				
<b>EASTER</b>	<b>30 Mar Good Friday</b> <b>1 April Easter Sunday</b>			
-----				
<b>STUDY EIGHT</b>	2 Apr	7 / 8 April	<b>CAUSES FOR JOY</b> Luke 15:1-32	<b>32</b>

## **INTRODUCTION**

This term at St Faith's Narrabeen we will be studying Luke Chapters 12 to 15. It may seem strange to start in the middle of the gospel, but these are chapters that we have not studied here for some time. And they are a part of Jesus' teaching that is particularly important for our time.

The situation is that Jesus has set his sights firmly on heading up to Jerusalem (9:51). Jesus is heading to the cross, to suffer and be rejected (9:22). And anyone who follows Jesus must be ready to suffer, to take up his own cross (14:26).

But, huge crowds are following Jesus, the healer (12:1). The word is that Jesus has come to fulfil all their wishes for health and prosperity, (19:11) for security and peace and well-being. The "good life" has arrived, or so the news is reported.

Well, in chapters 12 to 15 of Luke's gospel, Jesus combats this "Fake News". And his teaching is sobering, confronting, realistic, practical – what we need today; what anyone who TRULY wants to follow Jesus – craves.

May this term equip us all to be true followers, and know the joy of this.

**Kerry Nagel**

***January 2018***

## **STUDY ONE: On Being Real**

## **Luke 12:1-12**

### 1/ Getting Started

- a) When have you witnessed hypocrisy, recently? Discuss.
  
- b) Write a brief definition of hypocrisy.
  
- c) What, do you think, motivates a person to be hypocritical? Discuss

### 2/ Turning to the Bible

Read Luke 12: 1-12

- a) Jesus here speaks to his disciples, as if he draws them aside from the crowds. What are the crowds referred to in verse 1 doing? Why, do you think?
  
- b) Jesus gives the disciples a strong warning. (v1) What is it?
  
- c) How might the Pharisees' behaviour be like yeast?

d) From Verses 2 and 3, why is such behaviour foolish?

e) From verses 4 to 7 whom does Jesus say a disciple must "fear"? Why?

f) How might this attitude of respect for God, help a disciple resist the temptation of hypocrisy? Discuss.

g) From verses 8 to 10, what must any disciple be willing to do? Why might this be difficult?

### 3/ Getting personal

a) In what areas might you be tempted to be hypocritical? Discuss.

b) What things that Jesus has taught here, help you to resist this temptation? Discuss.

4/ Note: "The sin against the Holy Spirit" is probably the persistent and decisive rejection of the Spirit's message concerning Jesus (See 11: 53-54 as a symptom of this.)

## **PRAYER POINTS**

## **STUDY TWO: Rich Before God?**

## **Luke 12:13-34**

### 1/ Getting started

In this passage, Jesus teaches about being Rich toward God.

- a) Without considering the Bible passage yet, would you say you are "Rich" toward God? Why or why not? Discuss

### 2/ Turning to the Bible

- a) Read Luke 12: 13-21. What request is made of Jesus (v13)? Why do you think the man asks this?

- b) What warning does Jesus give the crowds who overhear the request? (v14-15). Why do you think Jesus says this?

- c) Jesus next tells a parable (v16-21). What does the rich man wrongly assume?



d) From v21, what does Jesus urge the crowd, and especially the man of verse 14, to “worry” about? Why?

e) Jesus now turns to teach his disciples. Read verses 22 to 34 (This section is connected to verse 21, as it teaches a disciple how to be “Rich toward God”). List the things a disciple of Jesus is NOT to worry about.

f) Why do disciples not need to worry about these things?

g) What ARE disciples to worry about (v31-34)

3/ Getting personal

a) Would you say you are "Rich toward God?" Why, or why not?

b) From verses 31-34, how could a person become "Rich toward God?" Discuss.

c) How could you change what you do, to have "treasure in heaven"? Discuss.

## **PRAYER POINTS**

## STUDY THREE: Waiting Well

Luke 12:35-59

### 1/ Getting started

a) What have you had to 'wait for', in your life? What was that like? Discuss.

b) Read Luke 9:26. What event has Jesus told his disciples they are to prepare for?

### 2/ Turning to the Bible

a) Read Luke 12:35 to 48. Jesus is teaching his disciples here. What danger is Jesus warning them about in this parable? What are they **not** to do? (see e.g. v45)

b) What are the disciples to be careful to do?

c) How might this parable apply to us? Discuss.

d) Read Luke 12:49-53. What "baptism" is Jesus speaking of in verse 50? (See Luke 9:21-22)

e) In Jesus' time, why might following him have led a disciple into conflicts? (See e.g. 11:53-54)

f) How might this warning be applicable to us today? Discuss.

#### 4/ Getting personal

a) What steps can we take to help each other be ready for Jesus' return?  
i. In our small groups?

ii. In our wider church at Narrabeen?

b) What practical steps can we take, to help each other deal with "division" and rejection, even from family? Discuss.

#### 4/ If you have time. Read Luke 12: 54-59.

a) Jesus here speaks to the crowds. What do you think he is challenging them to see and understand? (v56)

b) In what way might the people be acting hypocritically? (notice the link back to 12:1, 12:56) Discuss.

## **PRAYER POINTS**

## **STUDY FOUR: Responding to Jesus**

**Luke 13:1-12**

### 1/ Getting Started

- a) Jesus once asked Peter (Luke 9:20) "Who do you say I am?" How would you answer that question about Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b) Why did you give the answer you gave, about Jesus? What things have shaped your conclusion? Discuss.

### 2/ Turning to the Bible

- a) As Jesus journeys up to Jerusalem he is teaching, but also doing healing miracles, signs from God that he is "The Christ". Read Acts 2:22. What here, does Peter say God had done before the people of Israel?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b) Read Luke 13:1-5. What wrong assumption does Jesus correct, in these verses?



c) Read Luke 13:6-9. The vineyard is probably a symbol referring to the nation Israel. How might they have failed to “bear fruit”, given their responses to Jesus? (See also the following section.)

d) Read Luke 13:10-17. What power does Jesus display, in these verses?

e) What does the synagogue ruler fail to understand –

i/ about the Sabbath?

ii/ about God’s priorities?

iii/ about Jesus’ identity?

### 3/ Getting personal

a) In verse 5, Jesus gave a strong challenge to his hearers. What do you think, given the context, he expected them to do? (e.g. Luke 3:8).

b) How might this apply to us?

## **PRAYER POINTS**

## **STUDY FIVE: Entering God's Kingdom**

**Luke 13:18-35**

### 1/ Getting Started

- a) What makes you question or doubt whether Jesus is really God the Son, the one to serve? (If anything). Discuss.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b) Read Luke 19:11. It seems that many in Jesus' time doubted he was the Messiah, because the "Kingdom of God" had not appeared in the way they expected. The expectation was that God would "quickly establish his world-wide" kingdom, based in Jerusalem, and all Israelites would be part of this Kingdom, ruling with God's king. Roman rule would be overthrown. Yet – Israel's rulers were rejecting Jesus – (e.g. 13:14-17). So, Jesus couldn't be the one to bring in God's Kingdom, could he?

### 2/ Turning to the Bible

- a) Read Luke 13:18-21. In these two short parables, how does Jesus correct the wrong expectations people had about the "Kingdom of God"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b) Read Luke 13:22-30. Many expected that every Israelite would be saved by God. How has the questioner in verse 2 correctly understood Jesus' teaching in chapter 13: 1-9?

- c) Jesus doesn't directly answer the man's question. What **does** Jesus urge the man, and all those listening, to do? (v24).
  
- d) How does Jesus emphasize the urgency of the warning? (v25-30).
  
- e) Why is this an urgent appeal for those listening to Jesus, given where he is going? (see v22 for his destination).
  
- f) From verse 28-30, who does Jesus teach **will** be (contrary to Jewish expectations) in the Kingdom of God? Who will miss out?

- g) What in practical terms, was Jesus calling on his hearers to do in verse 24? (See also 13:3,5; 13:27, Luke 6:46-49).

3/ Getting personal

- a) Jesus gives strong warnings about not missing out on salvation, about taking your place "at the feast in the Kingdom of God". How can we "make every effort to enter", today? Discuss.

4/ If you have time. Read Luke 13: 31-35.

- a) How does Jesus feel about the rejection he has received from his own people, symbolized by Jerusalem?

- b) What is Jesus determined to do, despite any opposition? Why do you think he does this?

## **PRAYER POINTS**

## **STUDY SIX: Partying Well**

**Luke 14:1-24**

### 1/ Getting started

- a) Think of the last time you were invited to a party or celebration. (e.g. Christmas time, or wedding or other event). How did you feel about being invited? Why did you feel this way? Discuss
  
- b) The “social pages” of our newspapers tell us about celebrities, and the parties they host. (eg coming ‘Royal Wedding’ etc.) Who do celebrities invite to their parties? Why, do you think?

### 2/ Turning to the Bible

- a) Read Luke 14:1-14. From verses 1-2, it seems as if Jesus has been invited to this party, in order to be trapped into doing the wrong thing. From what we have read so far in Luke, why might this be so?
  
- b) In what way is Jesus different to the Pharisees and experts in the Law?



c) From verses 7 to 11 how is Jesus challenging the attitudes of those at the party?

d) Why does Jesus give the advice he does in verses 12 to 14?

e) In what way might this apply to us, today? Discuss

f) Read Luke 14v15-24. With what does Jesus parable compare the Kingdom of God ?



## **PRAYER POINTS**







## **PRAYER POINTS**





- d) What is Jesus' point in telling the Pharisees these parables?  
(v7, 10)

### 3/ Getting personal

- a) What does Jesus here teach about the character of God, and his desires, and what he values? Discuss

- b) How might applying this teaching influence us as disciples of Jesus, in regard to who we associate with? Discuss.

- c) How might this teaching of Jesus help us, in regard to evangelism?

d) How might we apply this, in our small group?

e) How might we apply this, in our wider church life?

4/ If you have time. Read Luke 15: 11-32.

a) What does this parable teach about God's character? Discuss.

## **PRAYER POINTS**

