

The Gospel According to St. Luke

Middle school Ministry



Introduction

The 4 Gospels comparison

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
To whom it was written	Jews	Romans	Greeks	Christians
Subject	The Messiah the king	The Messiah the conqueror of Satan	Christ the lover of mankind	Christ the Incarnate Word
Main message of Jesus	Fulfills the Law	Performs wonders	Saves mankind	Dwells among us
Gospel content	Focuses on prophecies	Focuses on deeds	Focused on history	Focused on theology
Symbol	The human face	The lion	The Ox	The Eagle

Symbols of the Four Gospels

Matthew
Winged Man
Mark
Winged Lion
Luke
Winged Ox
John
Eagle

1- Servant's preparation:

- 1) Explanation of the gospel of St Luke chapters 1-12 and an introduction for Bishop Yousef
<https://www.suscopts.org/diocese/bishop/bible-study/holy-gospel-according-to-st-luke/>
- 2) A link for Fr. Doud Lamei 's bible study in Arabic
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHedjI0_e2nk5yEwV9kLxOBn-oJwCt5OK
- 3) The reference book for Fr. Tadros Malaty → see separate attachment
- 4) Upper room app → Sermons → Bible study → Luke , you will find sermons for each chapter, links provided at the beginning of each lesson below.
- 4) Two illustrative videos that could be used by servants to prepare or to show at the beginning of each unit.
 - Part 1 [chapter 1-9]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIb_dClxzo0
 - Part 2 [10-24]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26z_KhwNdd8

2- Book introduction:



A- Who is St. Luke?

- ❖ The word “Luke” is probably an abbreviation of the Latin word “Lucanus” or “Lucuis”, which means ‘the carrier of the light’ or ‘the enlightened’.
- ❖ He is the only one among the writers for the Testament who was not a Jew, but a Gentile
- ❖ St. Luke was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle and became his companion on his numerous journeys.
- ❖ He met St. Paul on his second missionary journey in Troas and accompanied him to Philippi. Then, he joined him again on his third journey heading to Jerusalem. It appears that he may have stayed in Palestine during the two years’ imprisonment of St. Paul in Caesarea. They also travelled to preach in Rome together (Acts 28:30).
- ❖ He was not one of the disciples, nor one of the apostles.
- ❖ It came by oral tradition that he had painted the first picture of the Virgin Mary.
- ❖ He departed in Bithynia at an old age. Some say that he was martyred during the reign of Nero at age 84.

B- Characteristics:

- ❖ He wrote this Gospel and the Book of Acts to an Alexandrian nobleman named **Theophilus** (Luke 1:3), calling him “most excellent”, which is a special title for one who holds an important position within the Roman Empire. Some say that Theophilus is one of these three:
 1. He might be someone whose name the apostles did not want to mention, instead, calling him Theophilus which means ‘he who loves God’ in order not to reveal his identity and cause him harm.
 2. Or someone who truly bore this name. The apostle wrote him the Gospel of truth (the Gospel of St. Luke) to understand the Church and its mission (the Acts), in order to attract him to the faith rather than resist the Church.
 3. Luke was a doctor and a servant; he may have treated his own master before setting him free. In order to show his gratitude and give the most precious thing he could offer; he wrote him the gospel of our Lord Jesus and the history of the first Church
- ❖ St Luke did not meet Jesus in person but believed later when he met St Paul. In order to record accurate details about the whole story of Jesus, he interviewed eyewitnesses like St Mary and the disciples and may be main characters he wrote about like the Samaritan and Zacchaeus to be able to collect accurate and reliable understanding of all things and document them for all generations in a perfectly historical way.
- ❖ Picture a scientist going about some great work. He or she is searching for the cure for some horrible disease or making some marvelous new discovery. First the scientist digs for facts, looking deeply, studying carefully, investigating every clue, relentlessly hunting for any and every fact that will make the discovery deeper, richer, and more accurate.

- ❖ Similarly, in this study, we are going to look at Jesus through the eyes of those who actually witnessed Him, and then told their story. That is what a witness is: a person who sees or experiences something, then tells others what he or she has seen.

C- The Time for his writing

- There is no sure tradition regarding the time of this writing or its site. St. Irianus thinks it was written before the martyrdom of St. Paul.
- Since the gospel was written before the book of Acts, and the book of Acts was written before the martyrdom of St. Paul the apostle, therefore many believe that it was written between the **year 63 and 67 AD.**

D- Its Aim:

- ❖ ***This Gospel was recorded for the Greeks***, who are known for their own philosophy and literature, which is why it was written in a refined and poetic style.
- ❖ ***He offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child. St. Luke presented Christ to the Gentile world as a Mean to find their inner happiness and joy. He began the Gospel with joy with announcing [the birth of Jesus] and concluded it with joy [Jesus rose from the dead]; something the Greek legends and philosophies lacked.
- ❖ Jesus Christ came as a Friend to support us; praying in many places: (3:21; 6:12; 9:18, 29; 22:39-46), and teaching about praying (Our salvation is not philosophy).



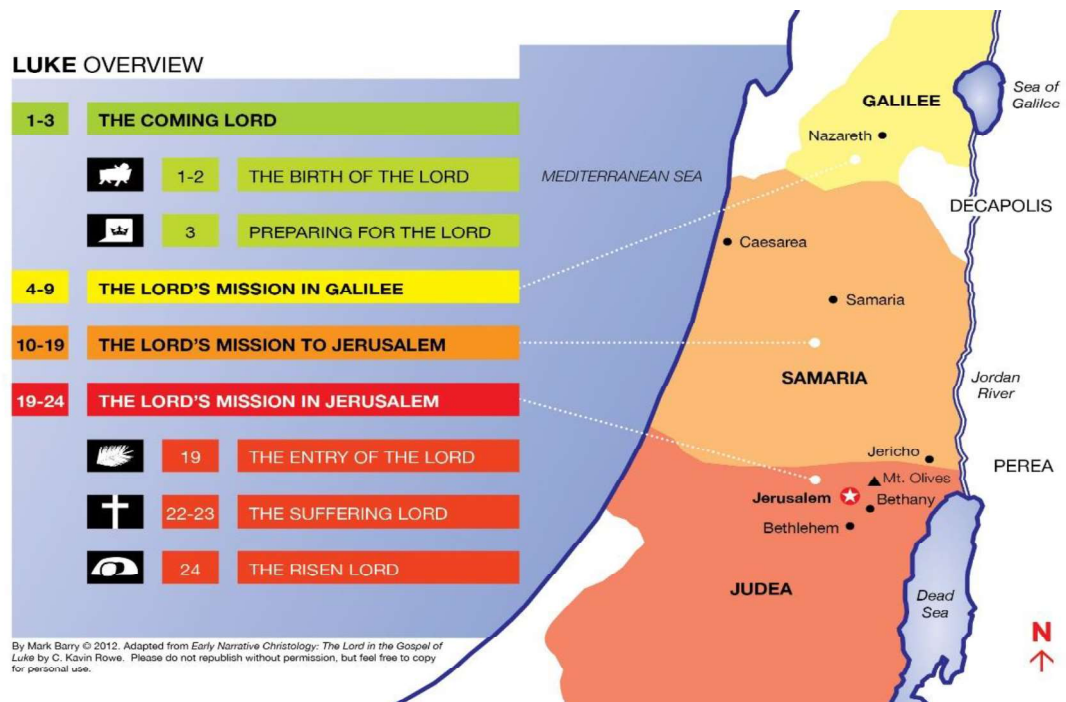
E- Why do we symbolize this gospel as an OX?

The ox associated with the Gospel of Luke fits well since it speaks to the great sacrifice of Jesus, and the ox was an important animal for sacrifice as required in the Torah.

3- Book outline

Its sections:

1. Unit 1: Our Friend became like us and was tempted like us, **chapters 1-4**
2. Unit 2: Our Friend feels our suffering, **chapters 5-18**
3. Unit 3: Our faithful Friend, **chapters 19-23**
4. Unit 4: Our Friend, the Risen from the dead, **chapter 24**



Unit 1: [3 lessons]

Our Friend became like us and was tempted like us chapters 1-4

St Luke presents the Son of God as a Friend, One that we can befriend not fear.

1. Introduction (**Chapter 1** v 1-4).
2. The promise of the Baptist to Zachariah and Elizabeth (v.5-25).
3. Meeting Elizabeth (v.26-38).
4. The birth of John (v.57-80).
5. The birth of Christ (**Chapter 2**)
6. The shepherds meet Him (v.8-20).
7. The circumcision of Jesus (v.21).
8. His entrance to the temple (v.22-40).
9. Jesus challenging the Jewish elders (v.41-52).
10. His baptism (**Chapter 3**) and the genealogy of Christ (v.23-37).
11. Jesus was tempted before beginning His ministry at Galilee (**Chapter 4**)

Chapter 1

Servant's preparation:

A sermon from Upper room app bible study about chapter 1

<https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+nkahjqy>

Brief introduction:

At the beginning of each lesson, please mention this book overview.

- ✓ Who is St. Luke? He was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle later after resurrection.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Greek after collecting testimonies from eyewitnesses to accurately record all details of Jesus's life.
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? ***St Luke offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child.

Main points in the Chapter:

1. An introduction to the book 1-4
2. The good news to Zacharias of John's birth 5-17
3. Zacharias' dumbness 18-25
4. The Annunciation of the Divine Incarnation 26-38
5. Mary's Encounter with Elizabeth 39-45
6. The Virgin's hymn of Praise 46-56
7. John's Birth and the Circumcision 57-66
8. Zacharias the priest's Prophecy 67-80

Lesson overview:

Please go over main events of the chapter briefly as follows

The gospel of St. Luke started with a short introduction that mentioned how, why and to whom was the book written. We explained that in the previous introduction.

John the Baptist's birth: 1-25

- Because St. Luke was a man of science, being a physician, he clearly defined the date of the event of John's birth
- Even though that time, there was corruption and there were no prophecies for 3 centuries, God saw Zacharias and Elizabeth, noticed their righteousness, and honored them to get John the forerunner before the Christ.

- In this conversation that occurred between the archangel Gabriel and Zacharias the priest inside the Altar, we notice that Zacharias did not believe the angel's words, in spite of seeing the angel and listening to the angelic voice in a tangible way which made him blameworthy of it, particularly because the holy history mentions living examples of elderly people who begot children whereas their wives was barren, such as Sarah, Abraham's wife for not having children.
- In (Luke 1: 17) "And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah". The Scholar Oreganus comments on this statement saying, "He did not say in the soul of Elijah, but rather 'in the spirit of Elijah and his power'. The spirit that dwelt in Elijah also dwelt in John, and the power in Elijah was also in John.
- The archangel declared himself that he is Gabriel, he came carrying the divine promise and the good news, but he also had to discipline Zacchaeus with dumbness as God commanded.

The Annunciation of the Divine Incarnation 26-38

- God chose a virgin who is betrothed to a man [engaged but for the Jews, it is like married without physical union]. God's choice was perfect because Jesus had to come from a virgin but if she were seen pregnant without being married, people would stone her thinking she was a sinner.
- The Holy Spirit came on her to sanctify her womb and start her conception, this happened the minute she agreed to accepting the assignment of being the mother of God. Her obedience opposes Eve's disobedience. She was more obedient than Zacchaeus who questioned the angel.

Mary's Encounter with Elizabeth 39-45.

- The virgin St. Mary has now carried in herself He who carries the burdens of the world, and He who provides for everything, she did not worry about what is hers, but rather in the receiving spirit, she hastened to the hills to the city of Judah, so as to serve Elizabeth.

The Virgin's Hymn of Praise 46-56

- When Elizabeth's tongue was released in blessings to the Virgin because she has believed the promises and has carried the Word of God in her womb; likewise did the Virgin's tongue began do praise God.

John's Birth and the Circumcision 57-66

- John's birth became a preaching sermon, though it had begun mysteriously, but the Lord has become a companion to him so as to support him; for God took John to the wilderness while young, and there He took care of him and raised him, so that he appears to Israel at the appropriate due time.

Goal we learn: [Submit to God's will]

In this chapter, we have many points to learn from, but we will focus on St Mary and her submissive response to the angel. **"Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."** Luke 1:38

Chapter 10 & 11

Servant's preparation:

A sermon from upper room app about Luke 10

<https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+egdlrvt>

Luke 11: <https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+mremg32>

<https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+vx4pffo>

Brief introduction:

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Remember:

Last lesson we focused on the characteristics of becoming a disciple as follows:

1. Jesus illustrated this idea when He sent His disciples preaching empty handed to remember when we are with God, we don't need anything else.
2. He also showed the disciples that their earthly needs are covered when He fed the 5000 with 5 loaves.
3. To be a disciple, we should deny ourselves and follow Him [serve not be served]
4. To be a disciple, the least among us is the greatest in God's eyes
5. To be a disciple, put off physical comfort and desire to be with Him, God should be 1st before family and friends and finally be serious and do not hesitate.

Main points in the Chapter 10:

- 1- Appointing the seventy apostles, and their preaching. 1-20
- 2- The Lord Jesus rejoicing in the Spirit. 21-24
- 3- The Parable of the Good Samaritan. 25-37
- 4- Martha the worker, and Mary the Sufferer. 38-43.

Main points in the Chapter 11:

- 1- The Lord's Prayer 1-4
- 2- The fervent prayer 5-13

- 3- A house divided cannot stand 14-26
- 4- Friendship and the word of God 27-28
- 5- Seeking a sign 29-32
- 6- The healthy eye 33-36
- 7- The inner purity and the worship by the spirit 37-54

Goal we learn: [Inside out]

- ❖ In this lesson, we will focus on how to be truly pure from the inside and not just show off. Jesus illustrated this through the parable of the Samaritan. The priest and Levite would show themselves religious in front of people but when the time came to act according to the law, they ignored the wounded man while the Samaritan who did not intend to show off, helped him with love. Jesus was making clear that it is what is inside a person that counts, not what external signs of religious devotion may be apparent.
- ❖ Jesus also showed Martha that serving food might look like a showoff, but Mary chose the better deal by sitting with the Lord in prayer. Finally, the Pharisee who invited Jesus was showing himself as a follower of the law and that Jesus ignored washing His hand before eating. Jesus taught him that those leaders are burdening people with unnecessary rituals while the need is for inner purity and true love to God

Lesson overview:

Please go over main events of the chapter briefly as follows:

Appointing the seventy apostles, and their preaching. Chap 10: 1-20:

- ❖ Jesus was not taking a direct and expedient route to Jerusalem. He spent nearly six months moving from Galilee to Jerusalem. As He did so, the opposition against Him among the Jewish leaders mounted. It is as if, in His divine plan, Jesus was giving the opposition time to "get in gear." He did not want to enter Jerusalem prematurely. Between now and chapter 19, we will see Jesus teaching and healing as He makes His journey.
- ❖ Jesus sent the 12 disciples to preach before, but Now He is sending the 70 apostles to prepare many cities in the area. He explained that the harvest [service] is a lot but there are only few servants. However, He encouraged them to pray to God to send more servants so as everyone shares in the blessing of the service not because God could not harvest alone.
- ❖ His mission for them is not an easy one, a path full of flowers, but it is rather a small mission of lambs thrown amongst wolves. As St. Augustine says, these wolves devour up the lambs and so the wolves are transformed into lambs.
- ❖ He asked them not to be distracted by moving from house to house nor by food. He instructed them to show the power of God through healing the sick and telling them the kingdom is near.

- ❖ Regarding Sodom, it will not be punished in the same bitter way, under which Corzin falls, and Bethesda. Because the strangers are not punished as the close ones. For those who know little, their judgment will be less.
- ❖ When the 70 returned they were exuberant with their successes. Jesus warned them to be more excited about their place in heaven than about the earthly successes they had achieved. (A good warning for those who minister today.)

The Parable of the Good Samaritan. Chap 10:25-37

- ❖ Luke 10:25-37 contains one of Jesus' best-known parables, the parable of the good Samaritan. He told this parable in response to the questions of an expert in the law who was trying to "test" Jesus (v.25). The lawyer seemed to be righteous and yet had Satan's heart inside!
- ❖ In the parable, Jesus contrasted the response of the priest and the Levite to that of the Samaritan. In analyzing this story, the priest and the Levite should be considered together. Both, of course, were religious men, devoted to keeping the Law to its minutest detail. The Samaritan was a member of a race of people much hated by the Jews. These people were really half-Jews because their Jewish ancestors had intermarried with pagans.
- ❖ St. Sveris the Antiochian says, "you might often think, out of ignorance, that the one who shares your religion or nationality is your neighbor or relative. But as for myself, I tell you it is he who has the same human nature, is your relative. As you have seen, the one who was looking up in pride of his priestly clothes, and he who was proud of being called of Levite.... Both did not think of him who was out of their folks, who was naked and covered by his wounds that seemed incurable, thrown on the ground, on the verge of death at any moment; he was a human person, after all! But they scorned him as. As for the Samaritan, who did not know the commandments of the law, and who was known among the Jews as being stupid and ignorant, knew human nature and understood who it is who are a relative and neighbor.
- ❖ For Him to make a Samaritan the hero of His story no doubt shocked His Jewish listeners. By doing so, Jesus was making clear that it is what is inside a person that counts, not what external signs of religious devotion may be apparent.



Martha the worker, and Mary the Sufferer. Chap 10:38-43

A small domestic drama is recorded next by Luke (10:38-42). Mary and Martha, whom we know as the sisters of Lazarus, invited Jesus to their home. While Martha worried and worked in the kitchen, Mary sat

at Jesus' feet. When Martha complained, Jesus indicated His approval of Mary's devotion. In this little incident we see Jesus' emphasis on the internal and the truly spiritual as opposed to the external and the ritualistic.



The Lord's Prayer chap 11:1-4

Notice God taught us to go in our room and pray to our Lord saying “our” not “my” which means He wants us to love others and remember our salvation comes when we invite others to our heavenly father.

A house divided cannot stand chap 11:14-26

In the next section (11:14-22) we see some of the opposition that was mounting against Jesus. Unable to explain His miraculous power over sickness, some of the crowd--no doubt the religious leaders--accused Him of being in collusion with the devil. Jesus easily dismissed their slander with logic.

The inner purity and the worship by the spirit chap 11:37-54

Chapter 11 finishes with words spoken in the house of a Pharisee. The Pharisees were a religious party in Israel. They were absolutely devoted to keeping the law of the Old Testament. In doing so, they placed great emphasis on external adherence to the smallest part of every law. In fact, just to make sure that they weren't breaking a law at any point. (That would be like a person never driving over 45 miles per hour on the highway so that there is no chance of breaking the 55-speed limit.)

In spite of the active opposition coming from the Pharisees, this is the second time Jesus accepted an invitation into a Pharisee's house (see 7:36). Here the Pharisee was critical of Jesus' failure to engage in the ritual washing of hands. (This was a problem of religious ceremony, not of hygiene.) Jesus' response was a harsh and lengthy condemnation of those (like His host) who placed adherence to external ritual above inner righteousness. He condemned them for greed and wickedness (v. 39), for neglect of justice and love (v. 42), for loading the common people down with empty rules and rituals (v. 46), and for confusing the people about scripture (v. 52). This lecture, as we might imagine, caused the Pharisees and experts in the law to be furious. They "began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions, waiting to catch him in something he might say" (vv. 53-54).

Lesson delivery idea

ENGAGE THE WORD

Begin the lesson by presenting the story printed below. You can simply read this aloud, ask a student in advance to be prepared to read this aloud, or, if you want to be creative, ask a group of students in advance to be prepared to stage this story.

The story concerns a group of youths shocked that one of their peers known for his religious life has been arrested on a stealing charge. The point is that although this youth was externally and apparently religious, inside he was not spiritual at all.

What Really Counts?

The group sitting around the table in the school cafeteria was shocked. "I don't believe it," Rhonda finally managed to say.

"Well, it's true," Kirby insisted. "I heard it on the radio during my free period. Kyle Wallace has been arrested for shoplifting.

"I still don't believe it," Rhonda repeated. "Kyle goes to my church!"

"That's right," Marty agreed with Rhonda. "He is always inviting me to go with him to your youth group meetings." "And I know for a fact that he gives the church 10 percent of his wages from the department store," Lisa said. "Anyone that scrupulous about—what's it called, 'tithing'?—couldn't be involved in something like stealing."

"I've even seen him read his Bible during study hall," Rick added. "He takes a lot of teasing for that from the other guys."

Jason, who had been listening quietly to the others talk, finally spoke. "Kyle is religious, all right. But I don't think any of you know him as well as I do. Inside, well, he's something different. This news doesn't surprise me much."

"Wait a minute," Rhonda interrupted. "Are you saying that all that religion is a show?"

"Not exactly, but kinda," Jason said. "He isn't really lying. It's just that he sorta keeps the two parts of his life separated. The outside part is religious. The inside part is something else."

A few moments of silence fell over the group. "I guess you just never know what someone is like on the inside, do you?" wondered Marty. "No," agreed Lisa. "And it's the inside that counts, isn't it?"

After the story is presented, allow a few minutes for your youths to respond. You might be ready with a few questions to trigger their discussion, such as these:

- *Have you ever known anyone like Kyle?*
- *Can you really tell if someone is a Christian by their actions?*

- *Do you think it's easy to fool your friends like he did?*
- *Why would someone want to maintain a false image of religious devotion?*

At this point in the lesson do not correct or comment on your youths' responses. Just listen carefully.

EXAMINE THE WORD

Jesus wants us to learn that we are the light of the world, showing His image to others so they believe in our Lord when they see how kind we behave. In order to walk in the light, our eyes should be pure. Sometimes people think they don't need God, so their light is actually darkness. This is hard because in this case they won't seek repentance. God wants us to be lit inside so our light shows outside, He does not want us to show others that we are great but truly our light is darkness.



Inside/Outside

Ask your students to make a list of things answering the following. This can be done as a group, listing the responses on the board, or individually.

Answer these questions as a class:

- 1- Make a list of things that make a person appear religious on the outside:**
- 2- Make a list of things that determine a person's spirituality on the inside:**
- 3- Is it possible for someone to appear religious on the outside without being spiritual on the inside? How?**
- 4- Is it possible for someone to be spiritual on the inside without appearing religious on the outside? How?**

Lead a discussion using those questions. Probably all would agree that someone can appear religious on the outside while having no actual internal spiritual life. But can someone have an active spiritual life on the inside without there being a corresponding external appearance? How your youth answer this will depend upon their definition of "appearing religious."

EXPERIENCE THE WORD

The Me No One Sees

Have youths imagine that everyone can see their thoughts and feelings. Have them indicate whether or not, and to what degree, their friends would be surprised about their inner life. Be sure to provide privacy for your youths to respond to this. They should not be asked to share their answers.

Imagine for a moment that we all had a video screen in our forehead and all of our thoughts were visualized on that screen. Everyone could see exactly what we were thinking and feeling at all times. Would your friends be:

- ***shocked at the difference between what you appear to be on the outside and what you really are on the inside?***
- ***somewhat surprised that your inner thought life doesn't stack up to what you appear to be on the outside?***
- ***amused at some of the differences between what you appear to be and what you really are?***
- ***not the least surprised by what your "forehead screen" reveals?***
- ***reassured that you are the same person inside as you appear to be outside?***

Conclusion:

In those 2 chapters, we have seen many examples of people showing what is not true. If you remember the movie "Inside out", you notice that each of us have many emotions trying to hide but yet they show in our actions. Similarly, God wants us to purify the inside so that the outside [=actions] are good too.

If you imagine the screen that reads the thoughts technology was applied to the Levite and priest passing by the Samaritan, the screen would show that they looked down on him but when they teach in the temple, they tell people to love one another. Let us be careful as we treat others that God knows this screen reflecting our inside. God can see if we talk in class because we want to be noticed or because we truly care about the lesson. When we help someone, do we make sure others can see us helping or do we it for God's sake? When we fast, confess or pray, do we mention it to others, so they think highly of us? Let us be cautious so our light is not darkness.



HYPOCRISY
Claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform; pretense.

You talk the talk, but you don't walk the walk!

Take home Prayer

Dear Lord, I know you can see the screen of what the true me is, you can read my thoughts and intentions, help me work to purify the inside of me so that my screen shows a good person inside out not a good person outside only but has a dark heart. I wish I am like the good Samaritan who helped the needy without waiting to be noticed or rewarded. I wish I am like Mary who sat by your feet quietly not trying to grab the attention of anyone but enjoy her time with you.

Memory verse:

35 Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness. 11:35