

The Gospel of Luke Jesus Begins to Teach

Interpreting the Text:

1. What are the major differences between Matthew's Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7) and Luke's Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:17-49)? How does the different language and focus tell us about the distinctions of Luke's Jesus?
2. What is the relationship between the stories of Jesus' healing activity, however we understand it, and his teachings?
3. What is the significance of the choice of a woman as the paradigm of a forgiven sinner in Luke 7? How does this woman relate to other female characters in Luke's Gospel and the other three canonical gospels?

Applying the Text:

1. Do you identify more with Jesus as Healer or Jesus as Teacher? Is one more comforting, compelling, or challenging to you than the other? If you notice yourself drawn to one or the other, why do you think that is?
2. Which of the beatitudes (or the accompanying "woes") speaks most to you in this moment in your life?
3. In his Sermon on the Plain, Jesus promises a world that looks very different than the one we live in today. How should we understand these prophecies? Is he talking about transformed human life, or a world we can expect in the afterlife—or something else?