

Gospel of Luke  
Week 4 Summary  
Luke 7:1–9:50

Luke continues to tie Jesus' prophetic ministry into the purposes of God by duplicating a miracle by Elisha (healing a gentile military servant) and Elijah (raising the only son of a widow). Ironically this is followed by John's question whether Jesus is the one they have been waiting for or not (again, John expected fiery judgment). Jesus affirms his role as the Isaiah servant. And we see the division that Jesus' brings: those who acknowledge God's justice or reject God's purpose.

In chapter 8 Luke again summarizes Jesus' itinerant ministry and notes the disciples who are with him: the twelve and a group of women, single and married, who support Jesus' ministry out of their private means.

Jesus then uses parabolic speech to illuminate and demonstrate how his ministry works: the seed is the word of God which Jesus broadcasts. Either people will have no growth, or they will begin to have growth but not produce fruit due to fear of persecution or love of possessions and safety, or they will have growth that leads to bearing fruit. It is the third which represents what it means to hear the word of God appropriately. It is also a warning for those who, like the disciples have some growth but have not yet been tested by trials. This is capped off by Jesus' redefining the way Jesus now redefines his kinship as those who hear and do the word of God.

We then see these words put into action in the real world as the twelve, particularly, moves to the forefront of the narrative. The disciples are afraid during the storm and Jesus wonders why their faith is not in action. This is contrasted by the demoniac who, having been released, desires to join Jesus but accepts the role as first public witness to Jesus' ministry instead. The contrast is deepened even farther by Jarius' faith in Jesus not only to heal but to raise his daughter from the dead and the woman who had been suffering from a haemorrhage for 12 years.

Having heard Jesus' teaching and witnessed what fruitful faith is meant to look like, the twelve are then brought more fully into the story now as more full fledged characters participating the mission of Jesus. Chapter 9 becomes a transition from Jesus' Galilean ministry to the meandering journey to Jerusalem where Jesus is preparing his disciples.

*The King Jesus Gospel*  
Chapter 4 (David Hay)

1. McKnight exchanges the 4 spiritual laws with the 4 chapters of the life of Jesus. How does this solve the problem?
2. How does his expansion of Jesus's death, burial, resurrection and appearances help you understand the gospel as the resolution of Israel's story?