Life Church Sermon For: 2025-08-24-Handout

▼ They're Going To Kill Me! Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday August 24, 2025 © 2025 Life Church Ministries, Inc. http://www.LifeChurchBoston.org/

Opening Material

▼ Welcome!

- Praise the Lord!
- Welcome to another Life Church sermon!

▼ Transition

- Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.
- The QR code (also available on our song sheets) links to our Visitor Landing Page.
- Use it to access our notes, share your contact information, and access our giving page.
- Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!
- Email: Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG
- We are continuing through Luke 18.
- We will have life group after the message.

▼ Thoughts

▼ Video

- Chase: We Talkin' Bout Cashbacking I Chase Freedom Unlimited YouTube (00:00:30)
- <u>Talking About Making Disciples</u> YouTube (00:00:25)

Overview

▼ In today's message we will do the following:

- Moralistic Therapeutic Deism
- Why are we here?
 - Acts 2:36-39
 - Acts 17:29-31
- Review passage Luke 1:1-4.
- Review passage Luke 4:14-21.
- Review our passage Luke 18:31-34

- Explore what Jesus is asking of us.
- Transition to Life Group.

Opening Material

▼ Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

▼ Principal Elements

- 1) A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
- 2) God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
- 3) The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
- 4) God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
- 5) Good people go to heaven when they die.

▼ Comments

- Introduced in the 2005 book "Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers" by the sociologist Christian Smith with Melinda Lundquist Denton.
- Result of the National Study of Youth and Religion.
- ▼ According to Kenda Creasy Dean, author of the 2010 book "Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church":
 - "The problem does not seem to be that churches are teaching young people badly, but that we are doing an exceedingly good job of teaching youth what we really believe: namely, that Christianity is not a big deal, that God requires little, and the church is a helpful social institution filled with nice people . . ."

▼ Why are we here?

Acts 2:36-39 - Spoken to Jews

"Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off —for all whom the Lord our God will call."

• Acts 17:29-31 - Spoken to Gentiles

"Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he

will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

▼ Welcome to Luke!

- ▼ Video
 - Bible Project: Luke 1-9 YouTube (00:08:16)
 - <u>Bible Project: Luke 10-24</u> YouTube (00:07:48)
- Luke 1:1-4

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

▼ Embrace Jesus' Mission

Luke 4:14-21 (NIV) - The Lord's Spirit Is Upon Me

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

▼ Feed on the Life of Jesus

- Are you "worded up"?
- Eat his flesh; Drink his blood John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17
- Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 KJV)?
- What if you read a Gospel every month a chapter a day?
 - The Gospel of John in August (8/1 8/21)

- The Gospel of Matthew in September (9/1 9/28)
- The Gospel of Mark in October (10/1 10/16)
- The Gospel of Luke in November (11/1 11/24)
- The Gospel of John in December (12/1 12/21)

▼ For August this means:

- No reading in John on August 23 (yesterday).
- No reading in John on August 24 (today).
- No reading in John on August 25 (tomorrow).
- etc.
- As you read, write down any questions you have.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
- What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?

Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
- Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
- Read and listen to God's Word in community!

Luke 18:31-34

Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again."

The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.

▼ Parallel / Related Passages

Matthew 20:17-19

Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

Mark 10:32-34

They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

Jesus Predicts His Death a Third Time

- ▼ Narrative Luke 18:31-34
 - Jesus takes the 12 aside.
 - He tells them that everything written by the prophets about The Son of Man will be fulfilled:
 - Delivered to the Gentiles.
 - Mocked
 - Insulted
 - Spit on
 - Flogged
 - Killed
 - · He will rise again on the 3rd day.
 - The disciples don't understand any of what he said.
- ▼ Observations / Background
 - This is the 3rd time Jesus has warned his disciples. They still don't understand.
 - ▼ The death of the Messiah is predicted in the Old Testament:
 - Isaiah 53

Who has believed our message

and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

He grew up before him like a tender shoot,

and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,

nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by mankind,

a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces

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he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

Surely he took up our pain

and bore our suffering,

yet we considered him punished by God,

stricken by him, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions,

he was crushed for our iniquities;

the punishment that brought us peace was on him,

and by his wounds we are healed.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray,

each of us has turned to our own way;

and the LORD has laid on him

the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and afflicted,

yet he did not open his mouth;

he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,

and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,

so he did not open his mouth.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away.

Yet who of his generation protested?

For he was cut off from the land of the living;

for the transgression of my people he was punished.

He was assigned a grave with the wicked,

and with the rich in his death,

though he had done no violence,

nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the LORD'S will to crush him and cause him to suffer,

and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin,

he will see his offspring and prolong his days,

and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

After he has suffered,

he will see the light of life and be satisfied;

by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,

and he will bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,

and he will divide the spoils with the strong,

because he poured out his life unto death,

and was numbered with the transgressors.

For he bore the sin of many,

and made intercession for the transgressors.

- This kind of humiliating death is a complete contrast to the expectations that the disciples and the rest of the Jews had for their Messiah.
- ▼ The Messiah
 - Bible Project: The Messiah YouTube (00:05:48)
- ▼ Jesus' death is precisely what qualifies him to reign as a human over all creation.

Colossians 1: 15-23

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation — if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Lessons

- How shall we respond to Jesus' death and resurrection?
- ▼ At a professional football game there are several categories of people:
 - The coach and players.
 - The stadium staff.
 - The fans watching in the stadium or on television.
 - The rest of the population going about other activities.
- · Which category best describes you?

▼ Life Group

- ▼ Welcome (5 10 minutes)
 - Icebreaker
- Worship (optional for life group meetings during Sunday service)
- Word Discussion Questions

For each question, spend 1-2 minutes in silence before you begin to respond.

- What did this passage mean to the people who first received it?
- What does this passage mean to you?
- How will you apply this passage this coming week?

Witness

How will we work together as a team to be "good news" to the people around us?

- **▼** Explore the Harvest Skills in the Training Page "Big Blueprint" diagram.
 - What level are you at with these?
 - Are you a "wanderer", "follower", "achiever", or a "leader"?
 - What's your plan for developing these skills?
- Pray for the unchurched people you've been identifying.





They're Going To Kill Me!

Sunday August 24, 2025



Welcome!





Visitor Page

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Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!

Email: Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG

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Thoughts



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Overview



In today's message we will do the following:

- Moralistic Therapeutic Deism
- Why are we here?
- Review passage Luke 1:1-4.
- Review passage Luke 4:14-21.
- Review our passage Luke 18:31-34
- Explore what Jesus is teaching us.
- Transition to Life Group.



Moralistic Therapeutic Deism 1 of 2



Principal Elements (sounds good, but this is NOT Christianity):

- A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
- 2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
- 3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
- 4. God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
- 5. Good people go to heaven when they die.



Moralistic Therapeutic Deism 2 of 2



Comments

- Introduced in the 2005 book "Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers" by the sociologist Christian Smith with Melinda Lundquist Denton.
- Result of the National Study of Youth and Religion.
- According to Kenda Creasy Dean, author of the 2010 book "Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church":
- "The problem does not seem to be that churches are teaching young people badly, but that we are doing an exceedingly good job of teaching youth what we really believe: namely, that Christianity is not a big deal, that God requires little, and the church is a helpful social institution filled with nice people . . ."



Why are we here?



Acts 2:36-39 – Spoken to Jews

Acts 17:29-31 – Spoken to Gentiles



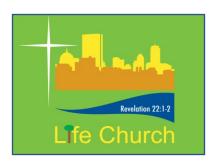
Acts 2:36-39 — Spoken to Jews



"Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off —for all whom the Lord our God will call."







"Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."



Welcome to Luke!



- Video: Bible Project: Luke 1-9
- Video: Bible Project: Luke 10-24
- Luke 1:1-4 Luke's Introduction
- Luke 4:14-21 Embrace Jesus' Mission



Bible Project: Luke – Part 1 of 2



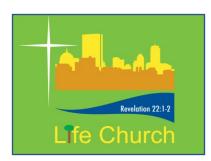








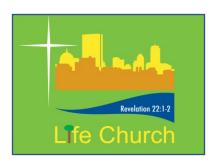




Luke 1:1-4 – Luke's Introduction



Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.



Embrace Jesus' Mission: Luke 4:14-21



Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."



Feed on the Life of Jesus (1 of 4)



Are you "worded up"?

Eat his flesh; Drink his blood – John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17

Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?

What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?

- The Gospel of John in August (8/1 8/21)
- The Gospel of Matthew in September (9/1 9/28)
- The Gospel of Mark in October (10/1 10/16)
- The Gospel of Luke in November (11/1 11/24)
- The Gospel of John in December (12/1 12/21)



Feed on the Life of Jesus (2 of 4)



For August this means:

- No reading in John on August 23 (yesterday).
- No reading in John on August 24 (today).
- No reading in John on August 25 (tomorrow).
- etc.



Feed on the Life of Jesus (3 of 4)



As you read, write down any questions you have.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
- What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?



Feed on the Life of Jesus (4 of 4)



Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
- Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
- Read and listen to God's Word in community!



Luke 18:31-34 (NIV)



Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again."

The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.



Matthew 20:17-19 (NIV)



Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"



Mark 10:32-34 (NIV)



They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."



Narrative – Luke 18:31-34



- Jesus takes the 12 aside.
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- Delivered to the Gentiles.
 - Mocked
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- He will rise again on the 3rd day.
- The disciples don't understand any of what he said.



Observations / Background 1 of 3



This is the 3rd time Jesus has warned his disciples. They still don't understand.

- The death of the Messiah is predicted in the Old Testament:
 - Isaiah 53



Isaiah 53 (NIV) 1 of 5



Who has believed our message

and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.



Isaiah 53 (NIV) 2 of 5



Surely he took up our pain

and bore our suffering,

yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;

the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way;

and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.



Isaiah 53 (NIV) 3 of 5



He was oppressed and afflicted,

yet he did not open his mouth;

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Yet who of his generation protested?

For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished.



Isaiah 53 (NIV) 4 of 5



He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the LORD'S will to crush him and cause him to suffer,

and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.



Isaiah 53 (NIV) 5 of 5



After he has suffered,

he will see the light of life and be satisfied;

by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong,

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For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

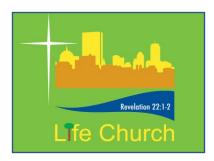


Observations / Background 2 of 3



This is the 3rd time Jesus has warned his disciples. They still don't understand.

- The death of the Messiah is predicted in the Old Testament:
 - Isaiah 53
- This kind of humiliating death is a complete contrast to the expectations that the disciples and the rest of the Jews had for their Messiah.
- Bible Project: The Messiah YouTube (00:05:48)



Bible Project: The Messiah







Observations / Background 3 of 3



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- This kind of humiliating death is a complete contrast to the expectations that the disciples and the rest of the Jews had for their Messiah.
- Bible Project: The Messiah YouTube (00:05:48)
- Jesus' death is precisely what qualifies him to reign as a human over all creation.
- Colossians 1: 15-23



Colossians 1:15-23 (NIV) 1 of 2



The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.



Colossians 1:15-23 (NIV) 2 of 2



Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation — if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.



Lessons



How shall we respond to Jesus' death and resurrection?

- At a professional football game there are several categories of people:
 - The coach and players.
 - The stadium staff.
 - The fans watching in the stadium or on television.
 - The rest of the population going about other activities.
- Which category best describes you?



Life Groups



Word - Spend 1-2 minutes in silence before you begin each question.

- What did this passage mean to the people who first received it?
- What does this passage mean to you?
- How will you apply this passage this coming week?

Witness (How we work as a team to be "good news" to others)

- Explore the Harvest Skills in the Training Page "Big Blueprint" diagram.
- What level are you at with these?
 - Are you a "wanderer", "follower", "achiever", or a "leader"?
 - What's your plan for developing these skills?
- Pray for the unchurched people you've been identifying.



Announcements





Visitor Page

- Sunday Service August 24, 2025
- Following Jesus Class Fri (8/29) 5pm & 6pm via Zoom
- Sunday Service August 31, 2025
- Men's Bible Study Wed (9/3) 7pm 8:30pm via
 Zoom
- Sunday Service (Communion) September 7, 2025
- Sunday Connection September 7, 2025 12n 2pm
- Men's Bible Study Wed (9/10) 7pm 8:30pm via
 Zoom



Life Groups



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Benediction, Life Groups



Announcements

Benediction

Life Groups

Leave Service From Life Groups