

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

EMBRY HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

Segment 6 August/September 2020

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DATE	LESSON	TITLE
August 2	1	Introduction to Luke; Preface, Birth of John Promised (1:1-25)
August 5	2	Annunciation to Mary, Mary's visit to Elizabeth, Birth of John the Baptist (1:25-80)
August 9	3	Birth of Jesus, Shepherd's visit, Presentation at Temple Flight into Egypt, Return To Nazareth, Jerusalem at 12, Growth (2:1-52)
August 12	4	Ministry of John, Genealogy, Visit to Nazareth (3:1-19, 23-38; 4:16-30)
August 16	5	Call of the Four, Healing a Centurion's Servant, Raising son of widow of Nain, Support of women, Final departure from Galilee (5:1-11; 7:1-17; 8:1-3; 9:51-56)
August 19	6	Mission of the Seventy, Good Samaritan, Martha & Mary (10:1-42)
August 23	7	Discourse on Prayer, Against the Pharisees, The Rich Fool Galileans slain by Pilate, Woman healed on Sabbath, Question whether few are saved, Reply to Herod (11:1-13, 27-32; 12:13-21)
August 26	8	Galileans slain by Pilate, Woman healed on Sabbath, Question whether few are saved, Reply to Herod, Discourse at Pharisee's table (13:1-14:14)
August 30	9	The Great Supper, Counting the Cost, Parables of Lost Things (14:15 – 15:32)
September 2	10	Parable of Unjust Steward, Law & Prophets, Divorce & Remarriage, Rich Man and Lazarus (16:1-31)
September 6	11	Concerning Forgiveness and Faith, The ten lepers The coming of the Kingdom, Second Coming (17:1-37)
September 9	12	Persistence in Prayer, The Pharisee and the Publican, Zacchaeus, Parable of the Minas (18:1-14; 19:1-28)
September 13	13	The Resurrection, Two Men on Road to Emmaus, Appearances to disciples in Jerusalem, The Ascension (24:1-50)

Lesson 1: Introduction, Preface, Birth of John Promised (Luke 1:1-25)

I. The Author

- A. Author of 3rd Gospel also wrote Acts (Lk 1:3; Acts 1:1)
- B. Author not an eyewitness (sources were, Lk 1:2)
- C. Travel-mate of Paul
- D. Ancient sources cite Luke as author
- E. Internal evidence for Luke's authorship
 - 1. Paul cites Luke as companion (Col 4:14; Phile 24; 2 Tim 4:11)
 - 2. "Medical" language in Luke/Acts (Lk 4:38; 5:12; 6:18; 9:42; 13:11)

II. Possible Sources

- A. Eyewitnesses
 - 1. James, brother of Jesus (Acts 21:18)
 - 2. Other elders and congregation in Jerusalem
 - 3. Philip (Acts 21:10)
 - 4. Silas – a notable member of Jerusalem church (Acts 15:22)
 - 5. Mark (Col 4:10, 14; Phile 24)
 - 6. Mary, mother of Jesus (Lk 2:19, 51)
- B. Written accounts (Lk 1:1; 2 Tim 4:11, 13)

III. Time of Writing

- A. Citations in other books
 - 1. Justin (150 A.D.)
 - 2. Marcion's heretical "Gospel" (140 A.D.)
 - 3. Gnostics Basilides and Valentinus (120-140 A.D.)
 - 4. Apocryphal "Gospel according to Peter" (130 A.D.)
 - 5. Didache (80-120 A.D.)
 - 6. Polycarp (110 A.D.)
 - 7. Ignatius (107 A.D.)
 - 8. Clement of Rome (95 A.D.)
- B. Arguments for pre-70 A.D. date
 - 1. Acts written after Luke (Acts 1:1) and it ends with Paul awaiting trial in Rome (Acts 28:30-31) – *Why would Luke not have noted the trial, release, or execution of Paul?*
 - 2. No mention in Acts of destruction of Jerusalem (70 A.D.) – *Luke mentions the fulfillment of Agabus' prophecy (Acts 11:28), why no reference to Jesus' prophecy?*

IV. Historical Reliability

A. William M. Ramsay

1. Not a theologian or an apologist but from a recognized authority in the field of archaeology. He began his investigation with much skepticism.
2. "I began with a mind unfavorable to it [Acts]... It did not lie then in my line of life to investigate the subject minutely; but more recently I found myself often brought into contact with the book of Acts as an authority for the topography, antiquities, and society of Asia Minor. It was gradually borne in upon me that in various details the narrative showed marvelous truth."

B. Colin Hemer identifies 84 facts in the last 16 chapters of Acts that have been confirmed by historical and archaeological research.

C. A disturbing problem for the skeptic.

1. Luke reports a total of 35 miracles in the same book in which he records all 84 of these historically confirmed details. (Norman Geisler)
2. Craig Blomberg "A historian who has been found trustworthy where he or she can be tested should be given the benefit of the doubt in cases where no tests are available."

D. Luke names 11 historically confirmed leaders in the first three chapters of his Gospel (12 if you include Jesus).

1. These include Herod the Great (1:5), Caesar Augustus (2:1), Quirinius (2:2), and then the leaders in 3:1-2.
2. F. F. Bruce "A writer who thus relates his story to the wider context of world history is courting trouble if he is not careful; he affords his critical readers so many opportunities for testing his accuracy. Luke takes this risk, and stands the test admirably."

V. Some Important Themes

A. Jesus, the Perfect Savior for all Mankind (1:31; 2:11, 30; 4:16-32; 19:10; 24:46-47)

1. Samaritans (9:51-56; 10:30-37; 17:11-19) and Pagans (2:32; 3:6, 38; 4:25-27; 7:9; 10:1; 24:47) as well as Jews (1:33; 2:10)
2. Publicans, sinners and outcasts (3:12; 5:27-32; 7:37-50; 19:2-10; 23:43) as well as respectable people (7:36; 11:37; 14:1)
3. Poor (1:53; 2:7; 6:20; 7:22) as well as rich (19:2; 23:50)
4. Women as well as men
5. Genealogy carried back to Adam (3:38) not just Abraham (Mt 1)

B. Jesus as Friend of All (including Outsiders)

1. Women (2:37; 4:26; 7:37-50; 8:2, 43-47; 10:38; 13:11-16; 23:27, 49, 55; 24:1-24)
2. Children (9:38-42; 47-48; 18:17)
3. The poor (4:18; 6:20; 7:22; 14:13, 21; 18:22; 19:8; 21:1-3)
4. Samaritans (9:52; 10:13; 17:16)
5. Sinners (5:30-32; 7:34, 36-50; 15:1-2, 7, 10; 18:13; 19:1-10)

C. Jesus as a Man of Prayer on all Occasions (6:12; 9:18, 28; 11:1; 22:45)

- In four brief verses, Luke accounts for the origin of his material and states its purpose. He also reveals to whom its contents are intended.

Preface (Luke 1:1-4)

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, ³ it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; ⁴ so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught

1. What does Luke say was his source material for what he wrote?
2. What was special about the manner in which he said that he wrote his account?
3. Why did he write his account of “the things accomplished among us”?

Angelic Message Concerning the Birth of John 1:5-25

4. What can we learn about the life and character of Zecharias and Elizabeth?
5. Where was Zecharias, what was happening and how did he initially respond when Gabriel appeared to him?
6. What was the message Gabriel gave to Zecharias?
7. How did Zecharias respond to the message Gabriel gave him? What was the result of his response? Why do you think he was punished? What lesson(s) can we learn from Zecharias?
8. What did Elizabeth say about her pregnancy?

Lesson 2: Annunciation to Mary, Mary's visit to Elizabeth, Birth of John the Baptist (1:26-80)

1:26-38 - Angelic Message Concerning the Birth of Jesus

1. What can we know about Mary's background and character?
2. How does Gabriel address Mary? List the promises he made regarding the son to be born to Mary.
3. What lesson(s) should we learn from Mary's unexpected pregnancy and her response to it?

1:39-56 - Mary Visits Elizabeth

4. How did Mary's visit to Elizabeth confirm God's promise to her?
5. What do you find interesting in Mary's "Magnificat"? (1:46-55) Do you see any themes emphasized in Mary's praise?

1:57-80 - Birth of John the Baptist

6. How did the friends and family of Elizabeth react to her pregnancy? (1:58)
7. What did Zecharias do when "his mouth was opened, and his tongue loosed"?
8. What are some of the specific details of Zechariah's prophecy concerning his son? What does he say his role will be in God's plan?
9. Do you see any of the important themes in Luke highlighted in Zacharias' prophecy?
10. Joy is emphasized in this chapter (1:14,18,44,47,48) at the coming of Jesus. How might these texts teach us how to find joy?

Lesson 3: Birth of Jesus, Shepherd's visit, Presentation at Temple, Return To Nazareth, Jerusalem at 12, Growth (2:1-52)

2:1-7 - Birth of Jesus

1. Why were Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem? What prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus was born in Bethlehem?

2:8-20 - The Angelic Announcement of the Savior & Visit

2. To whom did God announce the birth of His Son? Is this what the Jew's would expect concerning their Messiah? How is Jesus identified to them in vs 11?
3. What might be the significance of announcing the good news to these individuals? Did they repeat what they had heard and seen?

2:21-38 - Presentation at the Temple

4. Why was Jesus brought into the temple?
5. Who were Simeon and Anna and what were their reactions to Jesus?
6. Explain Simeon's message to Mary found in 1:34-35.

Note: After the birth of Jesus and the visit to the temple in Jerusalem several weeks after, the family apparently took up residence in a house in Bethlehem. There the wise men visited them. Matthew records those events in Matt. 2:1-11. Luke does not comment upon the journey to Egypt described by Matthew (2:13-15, 19-20). Matthew also tells us that they returned to Nazareth after the death of Herod the Great.

2:41-50 - Jesus Declares His Mission at Age Twelve

7. What amazed the teachers at the temple complex when they encountered Jesus at 12 years old?
8. Who does Jesus identify as His father when speaking to his parents?

2:51-52 - Jesus Maturing in Nazareth

9. What might it mean that "Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men"?

Additional Questions:

10. What lessons can we learn today from the response of the shepherds and Anna after seeing the Christ?
11. From the examples of Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth and Zacharias, what character does God expect from Godly parents?

Lesson 4: Ministry of John, Genealogy, Visit to Nazareth (3:1-19, 23-38; 4:16-30)

3:1-19 – Ministry of John

1. How does Luke pinpoint the beginning of John's work?
2. What are the specific details of Isaiah's prophecy concerning John and his mission?
3. Was John what you would call a "positive" preacher? (3:7-9)
4. What groups approach John and how did he uniquely respond to each of them? (3:10-14)
5. What did people wonder in their hearts about John? How did he correct them?
6. Where did John ultimately end up and why?

3:23-38 – Genealogy

7. What is the difference between the genealogy in Luke and the one in Matthew 1?
8. What purpose might the genealogy have in Luke's gospel?

Note: In Luke 4:14, Luke begins to discuss the Galilean ministry of Jesus immediately following the temptations in the wilderness. However, John (John:1:29-4:42) includes several incidents which occurred between Luke 4:13 and 4:14. In John 1, Jesus gains several disciples, including Peter and Andrew, through the testimony of John the Baptist and his own teaching. These disciples travel with Jesus to Cana where they witness his first sign, to Jerusalem where he cleanses the temple and talks to Nicodemus, and through Samaria where he meets the woman at the well.

4:16-30 – Return to Nazareth

9. His fame having spread through Galilee, Jesus returns to his childhood home. What prophecy did he read? What did he say about the passage? Why is that scripture reading significant in understanding both Jesus and mankind?
10. What objection did the hearers make? Why do you think they found it difficult to believe?
11. What proverb does Jesus teach? What illustrations from the prophets does he make? Why are these events of interest, given the target of Luke's gospel? What should we learn from this event in the life of Jesus?

Lesson 5: Call of the Four, Healing a Centurion's servant, Raising son of widow of Nain, Support of women, Final departure from Galilee (5:1-11; 7:1-17; 8:1-3; 9:51-56)

5:1-11 - Call of the Four

1. Why does Simon ask the Lord to depart?
2. What did Jesus want from him?
3. What lesson(s) did Simon take from his fishing trip with Jesus?
4. What did this event prompt Simon's partners to do?

7:1-10 - Healing a Centurion's Servant

5. What is unique about the Centurion's background? What impresses you about his character?
6. What faith does the centurion express? Why does Jesus marvel at it?

7:11-17 - Raising the son of Nain widow

7. What prompts Jesus to raise the widow's son?
8. What does this miracle teach you about Jesus' character?

8:1-3 - Support of women

9. What do we learn about the women accompanying Jesus and the apostles?
10. Of what help are these women?

9:51-56 - Final Departure from Galilee & Rejection in a Samaritan Village

Note: Luke now turns his attention to the last six months of Jesus' ministry. Jesus sets His face toward Jerusalem (9:51). This appears to suggest one last journey to the city, but in fact there is other travelling that occurs during this time. Some have termed this section (9:51-19:27) the Perean ministry, an area just beyond the Jordan between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. Luke spotlights the teaching of Jesus in this section, notably the parables of Jesus. Many of these are unique to Luke's gospel.

11. What time does Jesus now reach in His ministry? What is His response?
12. How do James and John react to the Samaritan rejection?