

From the Garden to Glory

Luke

Author: Luke, the beloved physician

Written to: Theophilus, "Lover of God", thought to be Luke's former master who freed the physician from his duties after both became Christians

Timeline: c. 4 B.C. - 30 A.D.

Theme: The Humanity of Christ

Purpose of writing: to give Theophilus and all Gentiles an orderly narrative of the life of Jesus as seen by eyewitnesses (Luke 1:1-4)

Introduction:

Luke, a native of Syria, was apparently not a Jew. If this is true, he would have been the only Gentile writer of the New Testament. It appears that he was an educated Greek with a physician's eye for detail. Luke opened his Gospel by recording Jesus' heritage, miraculous birth and early years. He followed by recounting the Lord's earthly ministry in chronological order. Luke emphasized the fact that Jesus was God manifested in the flesh, the perfect man, who humbled Himself and came to earth *as a man* to save sinful man.

As we begin our study of the book of Luke consider the following questions and write your responses:

1. Read the following verses and note what you learn about Luke:

- Acts 16:10-24 (Note: Luke is the author of the book of Acts)
- 2 Timothy 4:11
- Philemon 24

2. How does Paul describe Luke in Colossians 4:14? How would Luke's position as a physician give him a unique perspective when writing about the life of Jesus?
3. Most commentators agree that Luke presents Jesus Christ in His humanity, as the Son of Man, the ideal of human perfection. Why is it important for us to understand the humanity of Christ?

The Man "Made Like Unto His Brethren"

Read Luke 1:1-3:22

1. There is a great difference between the humanity of Jesus Christ and our humanity. Read 1:35. Jesus, in His humanity, is described as *that Holy One*. Now read Isaiah 64:6. How is our humanity described?
2. Read 1:26-38 concentrating on verse 38. What are you doing today to make Mary's words the cry of your heart?
3. The section of Scripture found in 2:1-52 is a very familiar one. Read it slowly as though for the first time. Write out the verse or verses that most touch your heart.

The Man "Tempted Like as We Are"

Read Luke 4:1-8:3

Before answering the following questions, read 1 John: 2:15-17

1. Read 4:1-4. The devil's first temptation of Jesus was in the area of the flesh. How are you being tempted to succumb to *the lust of the flesh* today? Write out the words that Jesus spoke to the devil. How are these words an encouragement to you?

2. The devil took Jesus to a high mountain (4:5-8) and tempted Him with those things which would appeal to *the lust of the eye*. How did Jesus resist him? How are you vulnerable to *the lust of the eye*? How are you resisting this temptation?

3. In verses 4:9-13 the devil tempted Jesus in the area of pride. How did Jesus respond? Look up the word *pride* in a dictionary and write the definition. Why is pride such a dangerous "trap" for Christians? Share a verse that encourages or exhorts you when you are tempted to be proud.

The Man Teaching His Disciples

Read Luke 8:4-12:48

1. Read 9:18-22, 43-45. Jesus foretold His disciples of His rejection and death, but they did not seem to understand. What is one thing that you can do to assure that you understand the things the Lord is telling you?

2. In 10:1-16 Jesus sent His disciples out *two by two*. With which other person has the Lord sent you out to minister? How have you been able to encourage this person? How has this person been an encouragement to you?

3. Meditate on 12:41-48. Ask the Lord to search your heart as you answer the following questions:
 - In what way(s) are you a faithful and wise servant to the Lord?

 - In what way(s) are you an unfaithful and unwise servant to the Lord?

The Man Exhorts His Followers

Read Luke 12:49-16:31

1. Read 12:49-53. In verse 49 *fire* symbolized the Lord acting as Judge against sin. Look at verse 51. Jesus explained to His followers that His cross would be an offense, that it would cause *division*. How have you found your faith in Christ to cause division in your own life? How have you remained faithful to the Lord in the face of this division?

2. Jesus says that His followers must *enter through the narrow gate*. What does this mean? How do you do this?

3. In chapters 14 through 16 of Luke, Jesus offers instruction to His followers; much of it is in the form of parables. Which part of this instruction impacts your life the most today? Why?

The Man "Never Man Spoke Like This Man"

Read Luke 17:1-19:27

1. Jesus asks a question about gratefulness in 17:11-19. Are you a grateful woman who gives glory to God? Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18. How do you obey this command on a daily basis?
2. Read 18:9-14. The temptation to be self-righteous is very great in our esteem-based society. How do you make sure that you are not a woman who trusts in herself, is self righteous and despises others?
3. Notice Jesus' words as He blesses the children in 18:15-17. How do you *receive the kingdom of heaven as a little child*?

The Man, His Heart for the Church

Read Luke 19:28-23:56

1. Look at 22:14-20 concentrating on the last two verses. Note the word *you* which is used in verse 19 and also in verse 20. The love of Jesus is expressed in such a personal way in Luke's gospel (compare this with the companion passages in Matthew 26:26-28 and Mark 14:22-24). Take some time today and make a note of the ways that the Lord has shown His personal love for you.
2. Peter's boast and denial are recorded in 22:31-34 and 54-62. After you read these verses, look at 1 Corinthians 10:12. How do you avoid the dangers of overconfidence and/or pride in your own life?

3. Take some time today to meditate on 23:34. What does this verse tell you about the heart of Jesus?

The Man in Resurrection Glory

Read Luke 24:1-53

1. Read verses 1-12 as well as 1 Corinthians 15:14 and Romans 4:25.
We are saved by the death and resurrection of the Lord in our stead!!!
Take some time today in praise and worship of our Risen Lord.
2. Consider the disciples' statement in verse 32. What does it mean for your *heart to burn within* you? When has this happened in your own life?
3. Verses 36-53 contain the Lord's final instructions and His ascension.
Look at 50-53. The disciples were blessed and filled with great joy. In what way(s) are you a blessed and joyful woman today?

Summary

As you conclude your study of the book of Luke consider the following questions and write your answer:

1. What is the most significant thing that you have learned from your study about the Lord, His character, or His attributes? How does this encourage you? Take a few moments to thank and praise the Lord for the things that you learned about Him.

2. What is the most important lesson or new insight that you have learned from your study of this book? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?