

1. Society tends to divide into hierarchies or strata...

- a. And whether it is the 1st century or the 21st — there tends to be elites and everyone else
- b. One Thing we see in the Gospel of Luke — the Gospel is for the Whole World
- c. Whether one is rich or poor, insider or outcast, the Gospel Good News is for everyone!
- d. Anyone can step forward by faith and accept the invitation of the Lord (Luke 13:29)

“They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last.”

2. The gospel of Luke has been called “the loveliest book in the world.”

- a. It is considered the most elegant and touching account of the life of Christ.
- b. Of all 4 gospels Luke shows the majestic grace & compassion of Christ more than any other

3. Today We Begin a New Adventure Together through the Life and Ministry of the greatest life ever lived, and the greatest love ever shown (Luke 1:1–4)

I. AN INTRODUCTION TO LUKE

A. WHO IS LUKE?

1. LUKE WAS GREEK:

- a) Luke was the only Greek writer of the NT — he Also wrote the book of Acts...
- b) With these two books Luke wrote as much (or more) of the NT as Paul did.
- c) Luke is written to Greeks showing the gospel is for the whole world!

2. LUKE WAS A PHYSICIAN:

- a) Paul wrote, “Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.” (Colossians 4:14)
- b) Luke was a Medical Doctor and His writing shows great detail to the suffering of people and of Jesus healing
- c) Luke the Physician must’ve been amazed by Jesus the Great Physician!

3. LUKE WAS A COMPANION OF PAUL:

- a) Luke Travelled with Paul on His Missionary Journeys
- b) Luke was with him when Paul was arrested in Jerusalem
- c) And Even accompanied Paul as he was taken to Rome for trial
- d) Luke is the last one to remain with Paul in his imprisonment (2 Timothy 4:10-11).

4. LUKE WAS A CAREFUL AND ACCURATE HISTORIAN:

- a) Notice the Accuracy of Luke when he dates the emergence of John the Baptist.
- b) He does so by triangulating six separate contemporary datings. (Lk 3:1-2)

B. WHY DID LUKE WRITE THIS GOSPEL?

1. LUKE LOVED THE LORD!

- a) He Wanted to Know Everything About Jesus! Everything Jesus Did and Said!
- b) Luke was not a part of the Twelve who followed Jesus...Luke became a Christian after the Death and Resurrection of Jesus
- c) So He Researched Everything and Spoke to the Eyewitnesses themselves

2. LUKE WROTE TO ONE PERSON: The Gospel is Personal

- a) to confirm and strengthen the faith of a single person: Theophilus...
- b) He is called the most excellent Theophilus — a title for a high official possibly a in the Roman government
- c) The Gospel is personal because the worth of one soul is more than the worth of all the material things of the world

3. LUKE WROTE TO ALL NATIONS: The Gospel is Universal

- a) Luke was Greek and Greek was the Universal Language of the World
- b) Luke is writing to the Whole World to show that the gospel is for the whole world!
- c) TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT JESUS CARES AND JESUS SAVES!

C. THE INTRODUCTION OF LUKE (1:1-4)

1. RESEARCH & INSPIRATION: The Gospel of Luke is Inspired by God...

- a) But Luke spent years researching everything about the life and Teaching of Christ as a careful historian... and Luke trailed with Paul who was also inspired
- b) Neither of these men were with Jesus during His 3 year Ministry
- c) But Both these men gave their lives to Christ

“God’s inspiration does not come to those who sit with folded hands and lazy minds and only wait, but to those who think and seek and search. True inspiration comes when the searching mind joins with the revealing Spirit of God. The word of God is given, but it is given to those who search for it. ‘Seek and you will find’ (Matthew 7:7).” (Barclay)

2. Christianity is Based on Historical FACTS...

The Truth Has Nothing to Fear from Investigation...

Truth Should Be Pursued Relentlessly

II. THE UNIQUE FEATURES OF LUKE

Luke was not with Jesus during His 3 year ministry, so he wanted to know everything he could about our Lord—and by research and talking to the eyewitnesses Luke has some unique events in the life of Christ not found in the other gospels.

A. UNIQUE FEATURES OF LUKE

1. Luke introduces us to John the Baptist’s parents Zacharias and Elizabeth

- a) When the Angel Gabriel appears before Zacharias in the Temple
- b) And Zacharias is struck speechless by the angel because he didn’t believe!

2. The Angel Gabriel’s Announcement to Mary

- a) Mary’s magnificent and revolutionary psalm of praise

3. Unique Parables of Jesus found nowhere else...

- The Moneylender (7:41-43)
- The Good Samaritan (10:30-37)
- A Friend in Need (11:5-8)
- The Rich Fool (12:16-21)
- The Unfruitful Fig Tree (13:6-9)
- The Lowest Seat at the Feast (14:7-14) [?] The Great Banquet (14:16-24)

- The Cost of Discipleship (14:28-33)
- The Lost Coin (15:8-10)
- The Lost (Prodigal) Son (15:11-32)
- The Shrewd Manager (16:1-8)
- The Rich Man and Lazarus (16:19-31)
- The Master and His Slave (17:7-10)
- The Persistent Widow (18:2-8)
- The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (18:10-14)

4. Unique Events in Life of Jesus found no where else...

- a) Such as Jesus walking on the Road to Emmaus after His resurrection, speaking to two disciples who are telling Jesus about the crucifixion and empty tomb!

III. THE THEMES OF LUKE

A. AN OUTLINE OF LUKE

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|--|--------------------|
| 1. The Arrival of Jesus (1–4:13) | [HUMANITY] |
| 2. The Ministry of Jesus (4:14–9:50) | [SERVICE] |
| 3. The Rejection of Jesus (9:51–19:27) | [SUFFERING] |
| 4. The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus (19:28–24) | [VICTORY] |

B. THEMES OF LUKE

1. Luke is “The Gospel of Salvation.”

- a) Luke uses the words “salvation” and “Savior” or their various forms many more times than any of the other Gospel writers.
- b) The Gospel Good News of Salvation — that Jesus Saves!

2. Luke is “The Gospel for the Whole World”

- a) Luke shows that God is interested in all men everywhere, not just in the Jews (Lu. 2:14, 32; 3:38; 4:25–27; 7:2–10; 9:51–54; 10:30–37; 13:29; 17:16; 24:47).
- b) Luke is Greek and Traveled with Paul to the Gentiles
- c) The Good News of the Gospel is God’s Grace is Available For the Whole World

3. Luke is “The Gospel for Individuals.”

- a) Luke shows that Jesus was deeply interested in individuals.
- b) Jesus cares about people as individuals.
- c) Old and young, from widows to children, from rich to poor, Jesus cares

4. Luke is “The Gospel for Outcasts and Sinners.”

- a) Luke tells of the feast Matthew held for tax collectors and sinners (Lu. 5:30);
- b) The woman anointing Jesus’ feet with her tears and wiping them with her hair (7:36)
- c) of tax collectors and sinners drawing near to hear Jesus teach (Lu. 15:1).
- d) He alone tells of the Prodigal Son (Lu. 15:11–32);
- e) of the Pharisee and tax collector (Lu. 18:9–14);
- f) of Zacchaeus, the tax collecting “sinner” (Lu. 19:1–10).
- g) Many of his parables center around the outcasts (7:41; 12:13–21; 16:1–12, 19–31).

5. Luke is “The Gospel for the Poor.”

- a) Luke tells of the shepherds who were of a poor class (Lu. 2:8f);
- b) of Mary, who made the purification offering of the poor (Lu. 2:24; Le. 12:8).
- c) He says that Jesus came to preach the Gospel to the poor (Lu. 4:18–6:20),
- d) and the poor have the Gospel preached to them (Lu. 7:22).

6. Luke is “The Gospel for Women.”

- a) Luke’s world was a world that treated women only like property, not individuals...
But Luke gives them a special place.
- b) He shows how God honored Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna (Lu. 1:5f; 2:25f).
- c) He tells about the widow of Nain (Lu. 7:11–18);
- d) the sinful woman who anointed Jesus’ feet (Lu. 7:36–50);
- e) Three women who were healed of evil spirits including Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna (Lu. 8:2–3).
- f) He writes about the sisters Mary and Martha (Lu. 10:38–42);
- g) the bent-over lady (Lu. 13:11–13);
- h) the widow who gave all to God (Lu. 21:1–4);
- i) The women who lined the road and wept as Jesus carried the cross (Lu. 23:27–31).
- j) He also includes women in some of his parables such as the woman and the lost coin and the widow and the judge (Lu. 15:8–10; 18:1–8).

7. Luke is “The Gospel of Praise.” He uses the phrase “praising God” more than all the rest of the New Testament combined.

- a) Mary’s Praise to God
- b) Zacharias’ praise to God when his speech is returned
- c) The Angels Praise to God at the Birth of Jesus
- d) Simeon’s praise when he held the infant Jesus at the temple

8. Luke is “The Gospel of Prayer.”

- a) The gospel of Luke is the one most interested in prayer.
- b) He has 7 different references to Jesus praying that are found in this gospel alone.

9. Luke is “The Gospel of Joy.”

- a) The words “joy” and “rejoicing” are used time and time again
- b) The Gospel of Luke begins with joy (Lu. 1:14) ends even with joy! (24:52)

10. Luke is “The Gospel of the Good News of God’s Grace.”

- a) Luke has the biggest emphasis on preaching the good news (the gospel).
- b) Luke used this term **ten times** in this Gospel (found only once in any other Gospel) as well as **fifteen** additional times in Acts. (Leadership Ministries Study Bible)

CONCLUSION:

1. **The Good News is God’s Grace Paid For By Jesus Blood on the Cross!**
 - God’s Grace is Offered to All Nations, All Languages, All Social levels (**Luke 1:46–54**)
2. **Jesus is the greatest life ever lived and greatest love ever shown**
Luke Wanted the World to Know that Jesus Cares and Jesus Saves!