

Life Of Christ

Week 1 Notes:

SLIDE 4 (WHY THE BOOK OF LUKE)

Let me begin by introducing the gospels.

Gospel (**good news**): the record of Jesus' life and teaching in the first 4 books of the new testament

Matthew, Mark and Luke are known as the **synoptic gospels** - they share so much common information.

Matthew (Jews): eye witness disciple of Jesus

Mark (Romans): not eye witness, was a disciple of Peter

Luke (Gentiles): not eye witness, was a disciple of the apostle Paul

John (Geeks): eye witness disciple of Jesus

John is different. John starts off by introducing Jesus as the Word and as God

We will generally be in the book of Luke for this 5 week class

Luke is the longest gospel with **1,151** verses and **568** words of Jesus himself

Luke is a traveling companion and personal doctor of the apostle Paul as (**Col 4:14**) tells us. He writes both the book of Luke and Acts about 30 years after the death of Christ making Luke the **largest contributor** of the new testament.

Luke is a gentile name, a greek name **Lucas**. We can **relate** to him

Luke was a follower to followers of Jesus (He knew Peter, James, John and Matthew and knew Paul very well). He is not an eyewitness

Luke did not talk a lot about himself. His question was **what about Jesus** (Luke) and **what about the church** (Acts). He followed Paul to martyrdom.

SLIDE 5: He is buried in the city of Ephesus, which is located in modern day Turkey

SLIDE 6: Who is the book written to? The name Theophilus means "Lover of God"

This is important because the book is written to a gentile who just loves God and wants to know about God. Those days people's [allegiance was to Caesar](#) and here is a man who wanted to know about Jesus and wanted his allegiance to be with Jesus. Some scholars believe he was probably a Roman official and sponsored this expensive research.

[It is a book that talks about the poor more than any other book.](#) Jesus loves the poor and we should too. Honor God with our money. Theophilus chose to spend his money on researching Jesus instead of a putting gold rims on his camel.

Luke was also doing the same thing serving God with his career. So you can have a career that also serves God. His Greek is impeccable and he was educated. In other words he finished school and served Jesus well. Use your education and intellect to help you be a servant of Jesus.

Luke has many parts not in other gospels. These include Jesus as a [young boy](#) and young man. Talks about Jesus' friends for example [\(Mary and Martha\)](#). The story of [Zacchaeus](#) (short guy who was a tax collector who climbed the tree to see God). Parables like the [good Samaritan and Prodigal son](#). Miracles that are found in Luke and nowhere else.

SLIDE 7: The question is, why? Well, because just like Luke, we want to do investigation so that we can have certainty about who Jesus is and what he's done.

We want to have that personal certainty about Jesus. He's God and savior. You can be a Theophilus, you can be a lover of God who lives a generous life so that others would come to know Jesus.

Application is important. Compare how the Pharisees know the word but have no relationship with. [THIS IS WHAT GOD WANTS](#)

SLIDE 8 (Video)

SLIDE 9 (Intro to what we will discuss today)

SLIDE 10 (LUKE 1:1-4)

[One huge introduction](#)

By the way, I have some disks and encourage you to read through the book of Luke. It will take you about 2 hours to go through Luke just reading it from beginning to end. You can take a cd and put it in your car to listen to Luke when you drive to work, to school or the grocery store.

Here Luke uses 3 sources, 1) interviews of eye witnesses 2) ministers of the word 3) written materials.

He is writing to Theophilus the lover of God. Theophilus is wondering did Jesus do what he did. Did he become a man and is he God? In that day Caesar was Lord but he wants to know so that he can say “no Jesus is the only Lord and savior”. Theophilus could be risking his life supporting Luke in that day. This should encourage us to live for God. Theophilus says “Luke, I need you to find the truth”. His question is, is all this history that has been written and said about Jesus true?

Francis' class discusses prophecy in the old testament a lot

(SLIDE 11,12) **Isaiah 7:14** - Before Jesus comes, a prophet will come and will prepare the way for the coming of Jesus. Isaiah prophesies **GOD WITH US** 700 years before.

Here is where the story of the preparation of Jesus begins with John the Baptist

(SLIDE 13) **Luke 1:5 - 7** tells us of a priest **Zachariah (The Lord remembers)** and his wife Elizabeth. These are the days of Herod the great and Zachariah and **Elizabeth (God's oath)** are really nobody. They are from a small little town and they are old with no children. This is during the days of king Herod a great king with wealth in Jerusalem. They loved God, served God and worked with God. They did not sin. Zachariah did not sin and divorce his wife because she was barren. Those days it was allowed to divorce a wife because she could not have babies. They did not idolize having to have children but served God together. It does not mean they were cursed but they do keep asking God for a baby.

(SLIDE 14) **Luke 1:8-12** So, historically thousands of priests go to minister at the temple in Jerusalem for 1 week, 2 times a year. All these years he goes every year and Zachariah never gets picked but this year he was picked to burn incense (verse 8 and 9). Sweet prayers going up to God.

(SLIDE 15) **Luke 1:13-15** An angel (**Gabriel...one of 2 only named angels in the bible, the other one being Michael**) shows up after Zachariah lights the incense and prays and tells him you will have a son and you will name him **John (God is gracious)**. And you will have great joy and gladness for he will be great before the Lord. In other words it is not Herod who is great **even in the midst of all this greatness in Jerusalem** but John will be great. Greatness is not defined by the standards of the world. Love God and serve him and you are great in the site of God and that is what really matters.

(SLIDE 16 - 18) Describe the temple

(SLIDE 19) Jump to verse 26 and again Gabriel the archangel is sent to a city in Galilee called Nazareth. He tells the virgin Mary who is related Elizabeth whom we just discussed that she will become pregnant and will have a son and will name him Jesus. This is just a few months after the same angel told Elizabeth and Zachariah that they will have a son called John who will prepare the way for Jesus.

(SLIDE 20 & 21) NOT THE ARCHANGEL

(SLIDE 22) Luke 1:30-33 - That word favor means “grace”...undeserved favor and unmerited love. We are saved and loved by God. We are chosen by God to be recipients of grace. You are favored. He favors you not because you are great but **because he is great** and that is the theme we will see throughout the life of Christ. Mary was nobody from nowhere, a young unknown teenager and she will have a son called **“God saves me from my sins”**. That is what Jesus means.

God can create everything and anything out of nothing. Nothing is impossible with God.

He can take an elderly women like Elizabeth and open her womb.

He can take a virgin like Mary and give her a son.

God can raise from death.

God can save us from sin.

He can make enemies friends.

He is a God of impossible.

The rest of chapter 1 sees prophecy being fulfilled. John is born and lives in the wilderness until he publicly appears to Israel as a grown man. And then Chapter 2 begins with the birth of Christ.

THE BIRTH

No one really knows exactly when Jesus was born. It is widely accepted that it was not Christmas even though we recognize that day as the birth of Christ. The bible tells us that shepherds were in the fields but **Dec through March are the lowest temperatures in the are at about 40 degrees**. There was however a popular pagan holiday called **Saturnalia** and so the Christians just said well we will make that the day to celebrate Jesus' birth.

The birth of Christ is the fulfillment of prophecy in the old testament. 2 big ones and one we have already seen:

(SLIDE 23) Isaiah 7:14: written about 700 years before Jesus was born

(SLIDE 24) Isaiah 9:6-7: The names of Jesus

(SLIDE 25) Then 400 years before the birth of Christ Micah 5:2

The anticipation was a savior is coming in all of the old testament and all have waited and are waiting for that birth and so Luke tells us about it. He says here is how the birth of the Messiah that we have waited for takes place.

(SLIDE 26) Read Luke 2: 1-7

We see a leader who for political gain and financial gain calls for a census. This was good for taxes and good to know who you had to join the army. Joseph and Mary are engaged to be married and in that culture they are married even though they had not consummated the marriage. So they travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem for maybe about 80 to 100 miles for this census. They arrive in Bethlehem and they end up in a manger in a stable where animals are kept because hotels are full with people coming in for the census.

(SLIDE 27) Map of the world

(SLIDE 28) Nazareth and its terrain

(SLIDE 29) Joseph/Mary travel to bethlehem

(SLIDE 30) The river of the Jordan

(SLIDE 31) Born in a manger

(SLIDE 32) **Matthew 2** tells us that Herod who was also King of the Jews at the time Jesus was born and wanted Jesus killed because he was a notorious jealous and power hungry king. He killed his own children, wives and anybody who threatened his kingdom. I like this portion of Matthew because hey Jesus lived in Africa for a few years.

(SLIDE 33) **Luke 2:22-40, Luke 2:41-52** - Jesus gets dedicated at the temple and his parents **offer a pair of two young pigeons** (this shows that they were poor because in that day if you were well to do you brought a lamb for sacrifices).

At 12 years old he goes to Jerusalem with his parents for the Feast of The Passover where he worships and shows his wisdom as he discusses God with teachers of the law.

(SLIDE 34) **Read LUKE 2:50-52**

Behind all this, God is at work and wants scripture fulfilled. Even though there were rulers (Caesar and Herod) who had different motives, God is at work. **He takes what is evil and uses it for good**. The virgin gives birth to Emmanuel in Bethlehem.

(SLIDE 35) So that's a little history of Jesus but why, what is God doing?

Incarnation. God who is Spirit, came to earth as a human being for you and I, to save you and I. **The 2nd member of the trinity became the man Jesus Christ.** The creator entered creation and became a human being - life on the earth among us. This is also the biggest difference between Christianity and all other religions.

It's about God coming down to us
It's not about pride but humility
It's not about what we do but what he does
It's is not about what we deserve but about the grace that he gives

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US

Like John this is our opportunity to prepare the way for Christ

Matthew 22:36-40 36 "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" (37) And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (38) This is the great and first commandment. (39) And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (40) On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Jesus is like us because he is human and was tempted of sin and knows our pain and not only that but he takes our pain. God came down and got involved. He understands because:

- He understand the challenges of growing up and being a teenager
- He understand friends turning their back on you and betraying you
- He understand working a dead end job
- He understands what its like to be homeless
- He understands what its like to be poor
- He understands what its like to be beaten, to be lied about, to suffer or die

He knows all that pain and he can sympathize. We suffer, struggle or are tempted, we can talk to Jesus because He understand. We can run to Him and he wants us to share that with others.

Jesus is also unlike us: instead of that friend who says well i feel your pain but I cannot do anything about it He is one who can save us and give us life and give us a relationship with God. He is unlike us because he is without sin and He came to make us be like him, take away our sin and reconcile us to the Father. He says, share that with others.

That's why we worship him: We are excited about Jesus, we love Jesus, we want other people to meet Jesus and we want to live like Jesus. We want to live for Jesus through Jesus. So we pray and sing to him individually and corporately as

a church. Celebrate in communion the body and blood that he sacrificed for us. We act. We adore Him and that is why we love justice and mercy and care about the poor the orphan and the elderly. That's his life through us that we share with the earth with our neighbors and coworkers and friends and being involved in our community.

SLIDE 36 - Jesus facebook

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