

A Bird's-Eye View for Me and You

Luke

A good life living for the Lord...have you ever thought how good it is to live for the Lord? The Lord never said it would be easy, did He? He never said that we'd have the things that maybe other people have in this world. Maybe we look around us and we get discouraged occasionally, but, you know, the Lord has promised, He has told us it is a good life. It's a great life, living for the Lord. There is no greater life than the Christian life. What do we have to be afraid of? The Bible tells us that one day those of us who have trusted Jesus as our Savior will go to be with Him and be with Him forevermore. It is a good life, knowing the Lord.

Well, today, we're going to continue our study, "A Bird's-Eye View for Me and You," the books of the New Testament. We're on our study number three, the book of Luke. Before we get into that, let me invite you to look at our website, www.LRWM.org. On the website, you'll be able to download a transcript of this program and other programs of "It's a Good Life." You'll also find Bible study helps on that website. You'll also find a place on there to email me, and also you can email prayer requests, and I'll be glad to share those requests with the Lord on your behalf, asking Him to answer those requests that He has placed on your heart, that you have on your heart, maybe for a lost loved one and maybe it's for a need in your life. I'll be glad to pray with you. Or write to me Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731. Why not write me today. The Lord will bless you.

Well, today, as we look into the book of Luke, our study number three on "A Bird's-Eye View for Me and You," the books of the New Testament, let me remind you that I'm not trying to go into these books in depth. I simply want us to get a bird's-eye view. I want us to be able to think our way through the New Testament. Now, we saw

Matthew and we saw Mark, and now we're going to look at the book of Luke.

The book of Luke, of course, shows the genealogy of Mary. The book of Matthew actually concerns itself with the genealogy of Jesus through Joseph who was His adoptive father on this earth, but now we're going to look into the book of Luke. Actually, if you'll study that, you'll find that it has the genealogy of Christ through the lineage of Mary.

The author of the book of Luke is Luke, of course, a physician and frequent laborer with Paul. He was present, ministering to Paul during Paul's imprisonments. In II Timothy chapter 4 and verse 11, it says, *Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.* Colossians 4:14 says, *Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas greet you.* So, Luke, the author, was a physician.

Matthew and Mark both knew Christ personally. It was a privilege to know Christ personally. Matthew and Mark knew Him, but probably not shared by Luke. Luke probably did not know Christ personally, but under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and through the people that surrounded Him, especially Paul, he understood who Jesus was and he wrote personally about Jesus. The date it was written was around 65-85 AD, and it was possibly while Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea and Rome. Luke gathered the information needed to write this account of Jesus' life while, I believe, he was with Paul.

The setting of the book deals with the time from before Jesus' birth until His ascension into Heaven. It was written to Theophilus, and this was possibly a member of Caesar's household who had heard of Jesus through oral teaching.

The purpose of the book, and we see several key verses. In Luke chapter 1, verses 1-4, it says, ¹*Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,* ²*Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the Word.* ³*It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,* ⁴*That thou mightiest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.*

That tells me that Luke not only had the witness of Paul; he also had eyewitnesses other than Paul who had seen the things that he writes about in the book of Luke. You can read later on if you would Acts chapter 1, verses 1-5, and it talks about Theophilus there.

The purpose of the book of Luke, and we see that Luke's purpose is to give an accurate chronological and comprehensive account of the life of Christ in order to establish and strengthen Theophilus' faith and the faith of the Gentiles, our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose is also to show the humanity of Christ. These were the things that Jesus began both to do and teach until the day He ascended into Heaven. You can read later on Luke chapter 5, Luke chapter 19, and Luke chapter 24 about this.

And then we see the Gospel of Luke represents Christ as the compassionate friend of sinners, the Savior of the world. Remember, we talked last time in the book of Mark how that He was criticized for His being with sinners. And, folks, the only way we're going to see sinners saved is to be around them. Now, we're not of the world; we're not a sinner in the sense that we're lost on our way to Hell, but we need to be around those people who are on their way to Hell, and we need to witness to them and let them know that Jesus loves them. The Gospel of Luke represents Christ

as the compassionate friend of sinners. And you and I need to have that same compassion for sinners.

And notice also that *Theophilus* means lover or friend of God. So we see that it can also possibly not only be referring to one particular person but it could be referring to individuals who are friends of God, who are the lovers of God, the people who love God.

The outline of the book, the introduction of the Son of Man, we see that. Christ's kinship to John the Baptist is seen in Luke chapter 1, verses 5-25. And then in Luke chapter 1, verse 36, it says, *And, behold, thy cousin Elizabeth....* This is the angel speaking to Mary now, the cousin of her was Elizabeth, John the Baptist's mother. It says that *She hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.*

So we see not only something that took place in the life of Mary, but we also see something that took place in the life of Elizabeth who was old. And this was a miracle in itself, and she gave birth to John the Baptist. So we see that Christ is related to John the Baptist in the sense that Mary was Elizabeth's cousin.

And then we see the miraculous conception of Jesus. In Luke chapter 1, verses 26-45, especially verse 35, it says, *And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.* No man had a part in the conception of Jesus Christ; it was the Holy Spirit.

And then in Luke chapter 2, verses 4-7, we read, of course, about the birth of Jesus Christ, how He came into this world. In Chapter 2, verses 21-24, we see the circumcision of Christ. Verse 21 of chapter 2 says, *And when eight days were*

accomplished for the circumcising of the child....Now, that's Jesus.... his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Jesus is the Son of God. He came into this world to seek and to save those who were lost.

Well, we see that Jesus grew up. He grows. In Luke chapter 2 and verse 40, it talks about Him growing. And then we see the genealogy of Jesus through Mary. Luke chapter 3, verses 23-38, talks about that. And then Jesus begins His work, teaching in the temple, Luke chapter 4. Jesus grows in wisdom, Luke chapter 2. Jesus is baptized by John in Luke chapter 3, and He's tempted by the devil in Luke chapter 4, and He is rejected by his countrymen in Luke chapter 4.

Jesus also demonstrates His power. He wasn't weak, but He demonstrated His power and we see that in the book of Luke. He had the power over demons according to Luke chapter 4. He had power over diseases, according to Luke chapter 4. And He had the power over the Sabbath, according to Luke chapter 6. He's the Creator. He created all things. Without Him was not anything made that was made. He is the Creator. He is God. And He had power over death. Luke chapter 7 talks about this and Luke chapter 8. And we see this specifically in His resurrection, how that He resurrected from the dead, and Luke chapter 24 and verse 46 talks about this. And it says, *And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day.*

There are many things that we could point out in the book of Luke, many things that we could look to about the life of Christ, and we see also as we study this book that Jesus shows compassion for the poor and the outcast. He loves that person who is downtrodden. He loves that person who needs His help. And we read that in the beatitudes in Luke chapter 6. He saw the sinful woman and she

anointed Jesus and washed His feet with her tears. She was a sinful woman but I believe she got saved. And tax collectors, the lepers, and tax collector Zachaeus came to Jesus, Luke chapter 19, and the dying thief, "Lord, remember me." And Jesus said unto him in verse 43 of chapter 23, *Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise.* So Jesus said you can be saved if you'll simply recognize Him as Lord.

And then we see little children coming to Jesus. Jesus showed His humanity in the book of Luke, and He calls Himself the Son of Man twenty-five times in this book, and we also see His human emotions as shown throughout the book, such as His crying and His pain. Luke chapter 19, verse 41, says, *And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it....* Luke chapter 24 and verse 13 says, *And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaeus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.* And Jesus then speaks and says this in Luke chapter 24 in verses 25-26, ²⁵*Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ²⁶Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?*

He suffered, He cried, He was showing His humanity in doing this, and then His dying on the cross reveals His humanity. *For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God, not of works.* The Bible says, *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin, so death passed upon all men for that all have sinned,* and it says that "for by one," Jesus Christ, by one man you're saved. He is God. He died as a man on that cross. He shed his blood for you and me.

And as we look at the application, the lessons learned in the book of Luke, we see that the prologue gives some strength to our faith, because in Luke chapter 1, verses 1-4, it says there were many witnesses. There are many other things that

we could talk about the book of Luke, the great themes, of Luke's record, the mercy of God.

Have you trusted the Lord today? Do you know Him as your Savior? If you do not know Him, let me invite you to ask Him to come into your heart right now. "Lord Jesus, come into my heart. I receive You as my Savior."

Until this same time next time, my prayer for you is that you know the Lord and that you're living for Him. May the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.