

Luke's Gospel

Wayde Miller

Luke stated the purpose of his gospel right from the beginning, *“Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.”* (Luke 1:1-4.)

From this text we know that Luke wasn't an eyewitness to the life of Christ. Matthew and John were, but not Luke. But Luke did put a lot of work in to compile his gospel. He interviewed eyewitnesses and evaluated material that had been delivered in order to produce an orderly account of the life of Christ. All this to provide certainty for our faith in Christ.

Mark and Luke were fellow workers with the apostle Paul (Philemon 1:14.) No doubt Luke had many occasions to sit down with Mark and talk about his gospel. Also, the numerous times the group journeyed to Jerusalem, Caesarea, and elsewhere provided Luke opportunities to interview many eyewitnesses. Luke 2:19 says, *“But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.”* Again, when Jesus was twelve years old and remained behind in Jerusalem, we hear Mary say, *“Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.”* (Luke 2:48.) Given the personal details given her, one has to wonder if Luke didn't cross paths with Mary herself somewhere along the way. And the result of all Luke's work is a gospel that is the most comprehensive account of the life of Jesus we have. It is the longest of the gospels.

Luke gives an historical account of how the living God in His redeeming grace through Jesus Christ entered into the life of mankind, seeking to save the lost. This is not an ordinary detailed biography of our Lord. He only made use of material that served his purpose. His aim was to proclaim as clearly and powerfully as possible Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as the all-sufficient Savior of the world. He starts with the birth of the fore-runner of Jesus, then goes into Jesus' birth. He quickly touched on a few childhood events before moving into the Lord's ministry. Most of the book is dedicated to the final trip to Jerusalem to die.

Along the way, Luke is interested in people: individuals, social outcasts, women, children, social relationships, poverty and wealth. Jesus cares for the outcasts and oppressed. It has been called the "Gospel of Womanhood" (chapters 1 and 2; 7:11-13; 8:1-3; 10:38-42; 21:1-4; 23:27-31, 49). The ministry of women in the life of Christ is demonstrated. Luke has more to say about the poor, the neglected, and outcast than any other Gospel. Some examples are: Zacchaeus (19:1-10), the penitent thief (23:39-43), the prodigal son (15:11-32), the publican (18:9-14), the Good Samaritan (10:29-37), etc. In Luke, Jesus is the God who came as man to die for the lost. He sought them wherever they were.