



Enlisted

Luke - God's Diligent Student

Luke 1:1-4

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • October 20 & 21, 2012 • Gospel of Luke week 1 • Msg. # 1232

1 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, 2 just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, 3 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, 4 that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught. (ESV)

1. Realize _____ (v.4)

2. Study _____ (vv.1-3a)

3. Thoughtfully _____ (v.3b)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **John 18:37-38**. Pilate, trying to evade the pressing demand implicit in Christ's confession, asks a question that is important for Christians to address these days. How would you summarize the pervasive misunderstanding regarding "religious truth" claims?
2. Read **Acts 26:22-29**. How does Paul's defense of biblical truth in this passage differ from most Christians' response to skeptics or critics?
3. Read **1 Peter 3:13-15**. What are some forms this kind of "preparation" may take? What could you do to be better prepared to "give an answer" regarding the truth claims of Christianity?
4. Read **1 Corinthians 15:14-19**. What would you say to someone who says he doesn't really care if Christianity is objectively true, he simply utilizes the Christian religion to feel better?
5. Pick one of the resources listed below, either a book or a recorded sermon that you think will be helpful for you. Commit yourself to listen to or start reading that resource this week.

The following related sermons are also available for free as mp3 downloads or audio streaming on the Focal Point Website (FocalPointMinistries.org).

Msg. # 0818 – **Gospel Crazy: Confident in Its Veracity**
Msg. # 0626 – **Our Assurance & God's Truthfulness**
Msg. # 0425 – **A Brief Study of When God Breaks the Rules He Made**
Msg. # 0530 – **Grappling with Doubts by Revisiting God's Imprimatur on the Truth**
Msg. # 1005 – **Evangelistic Opposition: How to Respond to Objections**
Msg. # 0023 - 0028 – **The Big Questions** (a six-part series on basic apologetics)

The CBC Bible Reading Schedule for this Week:

Go to ESV.org (Reading Plans: Though the Bible) for schedule prompts.

October 21st
Jer.5-6 & 1Tim.1
October 22nd
Jer.7-8 & 1Tim.2
October 23rd
Jer.9-10 & 1Tim.3
October 24th
Jer.11-13 & 1Tim.4
October 25th
Jer.14-16 & 1Tim.5
October 26th
Jer.17-19 & 1Tim.6
October 27th
Jer.20-22 & 2Tim.1
October 28th
Jer.23-24 & 2Tim.2

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Beckwith, Francis and Greg Koukl. **Relativism: Feet Firmly Planted in Mid-air**. Baker Books, 1998.
Blomberg, Craig L. **The Historical Reliability of the Gospels**. InterVarsity, 1986.
Craig, William Lane. **Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth & Apologetics**. Crossway Books, 1984.
Ewert, David. **From Ancient Tablets to Modern Translations: A General Introduction to the Bible**. Zondervan, 1993.
Geisler, Norman. **Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics**. Baker Books, 1999.
Geivett, Doug & Gary Habermas. **In Defense of Miracles: A Comprehensive Case for God's Action in History**. IVP, 1997.
Lewis, C. S. **Miracles: How God Intervenes in Nature and Human Affairs**. MacMillan Publishing, 1947.
McDowell, Josh and Don Stewart. **Handbook of Today's Religions**. Thomas Nelson, 1992.
McGrath, Alistair. **Intellectuals Don't Need God & Other Modern Myths**. Zondervan, 1993.
Montgomery, John W. **History and Christianity**. InterVarsity Press, 1972.
Nash, Ronald H. **Worldviews in Conflict: Choosing Christianity in a World of Ideas**. Zondervan, 1992.
Pache, Rene. **The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture**. Moody Press, 1969.
Percy, Nancy. **Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from Its Cultural Captivity**. Crossway, 2008.
Schaeffer, Francis. **The God Who is There: Speaking Historic Christianity into the 20th Century**. InterVarsity, 1968.
Wilson, Bill, ed. **A Ready Defense: The Best of Josh McDowell**. Thomas Nelson, 1993.
Zacharias, Ravi. **Jesus Among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message**. Word Publishing, 2000.



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Supplement to our study through the book of Luke

DR. MIKE FABAREZ



The launch of a new verse-by-verse study through a book of the Bible at Compass is always a big deal. As most of you have experienced by now, carefully working our way through each section of a New Testament book in our weekend services can take several months to several years. I'm often asked, "How long are we going to be in Luke?" That's hard to answer. Unlike the Book of Romans which took us a hundred sermons, the Gospel of Luke is largely narrative literature as opposed to didactic literature. Narrative texts "narrate" a story and can be covered much more efficiently than the tightly packed *didaskalia* (i.e., teaching) found in most of the New Testament epistles. With that said, the Gospel of Luke is the longest book in the New Testament – almost three times longer than Romans, weighing in at 19,482 words in the Greek New Testament, compared to the 7,111 words found in Romans. Yes, Luke only has twenty-four chapters compared to Matthew and Acts which have twenty-eight, but both by word count and verse count (1,151) Luke is the longest. That's probably more minutia than you expected reading this, so on to the more helpful data regarding the background of this great book which we begin to study this weekend.

The Gospels

The word "gospel" means good news. All four of the Gospels (i.e., Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) tell the good story of the life, death and resurrection of Christ, which for sinners like us is especially "good news" because, as the Bible tells us, his life, death and resurrection provide the mechanism for our forgiveness and reconciliation to God. While all four Gospels tell of the same story, Luke, Matthew and Mark are called "Synoptic" Gospels because "together" (*syn-*) the "look" (*-optic*) they give us of the life of Christ is so similar. Many of the sections and often even the sequence of events in these three Gospels closely parallel one another as we will see in our forthcoming study. John, on the other hand is very selective about what he includes, as well as the order in which he presents the life of Christ. John is "preaching a sermon" of sorts with pastoral goals, utilizing the life of Christ to make his evangelistic point (cf. Jn.20:30-31). Luke, by contrast, has "undertaken to compile a narrative" of the life of Christ (Lk.1:1), much like Matthew and Mark. The many parallels and difficulties between the four Gospels will be brought to the surface throughout our study of Luke.

The Composition of Luke

There has been much speculation as to how Matthew, Mark and Luke relate to one another in terms of their composition. Many have proposed that Mark was written first and that Matthew and Luke relied on Mark's Gospel to construct theirs. When Matthew and Luke contain parallel material not found in Mark, many have suggested there must have been a second source to explain the similarities. Those who hold to this theory have named this imagined source "Q" (from the German word *Quelle*, which means "source"). There are several logical and evidential problems with this two-source theory; these are debated in some of the books on the back of this supplement (see Thomas' *Three Views on the Origins of the Synoptic Gospels*, or the short essay on "Source Criticism" in the back of *The NIV Harmony of the Gospels* by Thomas & Gundry). Though Luke states that he utilized sources (1:2-3), Christ promised that literary dependence would not be an essential prerequisite (Jn.14:26).

Luke & Acts

The Gospel of Luke is actually only the first volume in a two-volume set. Luke initially writes to Theophilus regarding the life and ministry of Christ, which provides us with the Gospel of Luke. He then writes Theophilus regarding the advancement of the message of Christ through the ministry (or "acts") of the Apostles, which provides us with the Book of Acts. While Luke only penned two of the New Testament books, considering the combined size of the two (a total of 2,157 verses), we can say that Luke was used by God to record more of the New Testament than any other author – even more of it than we find in the thirteen letters of Paul.

The Author & Date

From the earliest of times the authorship of Luke and Acts have been attributed to Luke. Paul identifies Luke as his close companion and colleague in Colossians 4:14, 2 Timothy 4:11 and Philemon 24. In the book of Acts, Luke reveals his participation in Paul's missionary journeys in several places (16:10-17; 20:5-15; 21:1-18; 27:1-28:16). According to Colossians 4:14, Luke is said to be a physician by profession, which was clearly providential for the Apostle Paul who was often in need of medical attention both from beatings and various ailments (cf. 2Cor.6:4-5; 12:7-10). Hints of Luke's profession are subtly perceived in his Gospel by the way he depicts a few of Christ's encounters with the sick. Because the Book of Acts ends abruptly with Paul's imprisonment between AD. 60-62, the writing of the Gospel of Luke was probably just prior to that date – AD. 59 to 61.

The Recipients

The initial recipient (and some would argue, benefactor) of Luke's Gospel is Theophilus. "Theophilus" means "loved by God" or "friend of God." Beyond his name, we can only speculate regarding who this man was. Of course there is a broader initial audience in view. Luke's Gospel is similar to Mark's in targeting a mostly Gentile audience, seen by their explanations of certain Jewish aspects of Christ's ministry that would not necessarily be known to their Gentile audience. Matthew clearly makes the case to informed Jews that Jesus is the Messiah.

As is always the case at Compass I highly recommend you invest in acquiring and reading good books – especially regarding the material we are covering on the weekends. Below is a list of helpful books related to the overall study of the Gospel of Luke. While I don't expect everyone to get all of them, there may be few titles listed below that interest you enough to get them. If you can only acquire one book consider the concise and helpful little commentary by the late Leon Morris (listed under "Exegetical Commentaries"). Most of these books can be acquired in the Compass Bookstore. A few are available as integrated resources in the highly recommended *Logos Bible Software*. I suggest you always check there first (see the online catalog at www.Logos.com). Unfortunately, there is currently no printed "Harmony of the Gospels" in the English Standard Version (i.e., a book listing the parallel sections of the four Gospels side-by-side). But if you do utilize Logos Bible Software Kurt Aland's *Synopsis of the Four Gospels* will drop in any version of the New Testament found in your Logos library, including the ESV. That is a resource that may be worth adding to your Logos Library.

I trust you are excited to commence our study of Luke. I am praying for you and I call you to pray with me week by week as the weekend services approach. Pray for my study and preaching and for your own receptivity to the word of God as it is preached. I am expectant that God will do great things in us each of us and for our church as a whole as we dive into the Gospel of Luke.

-- Pastor Mike

Exegetical Commentaries (*books that seek to grapple with various aspects of interpretation*)

- Bock, Darrell. **Luke**. (2 Volumes) Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament; Baker Books, 1994.
- Garland, David E. **Luke**. Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament; Zondervan, 2011.
- Green, Joel. **The Gospel of Luke**. The New International Commentary on the New Testament; Eerdmans, 1997.
- Hendriksen, William. **The Gospel of Luke**. Baker Books, 1975.
- Marshall, Howard. **The Gospel of Luke**. The New International Greek Testament Commentary; Eerdmans, 1978.
- Morgan, G. Campbell. **The Gospel According to Luke**. Revell Co., 1931.
- Morris, Leon. **Luke**. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries; InterVarsity, 1988.
- Plummer, Alfred. **A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Gospel of Luke**. Clark, 1922.
- Stein, Robert. **Luke**. The New American Commentary; B & H, 1992.

Exegetical Summaries (*books that summarize all the interpretive options in a passage*)

- Blight, Richard. **An Exegetical Summary of Luke 1-11**. SIL International, 2007.
- Blight, Richard. **An Exegetical Summary of Luke 12-24**. SIL International, 2008.

Patristic / Historical Commentary (*books that record the interpretations of the Gospel of Luke through AD. 750*)

- Just, Arthur A., ed. **Luke**. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture; InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Homiletical Commentaries (*books that record the exposition of Luke by a preacher*)

- Hughes, Kent. **Luke: That You May Know the Truth**. Preaching the Word; Crossway, 1988.
- Ironside, H. A. **Luke**. An Ironside Expository Commentary; Reprint. Kregel, 2007
- MacArthur, John. **Luke**. (4 volumes) The MacArthur New Testament Commentary; Moody Press, 2009ff.
- Ryle, J. C. **Luke**. The Crossway Classic Commentaries; Reprint. Crossway, 1997.
- Wilcock, Michael. **The Message of Luke**. The Bible Speaks Today; InterVarsity, 1979.

Addressing Issues Related to the Study of the Gospels

- Swanson, Ruben. **The Horizontal Line Synopsis of the Gospels**. Revised Edition. William Carey Library, 1984.
- Thomas, Robert. **Three Views on the Origins of the Synoptic Gospels**. Kregel, 2002.
- Thomas, Robert and David Farnell. **The Jesus Crisis: The Inroads of Historical Criticism**. Kregel, 1998
- Thomas, Robert and Stanley Gundry. **The NIV Harmony of the Gospels**. Harper & Row, 1987.