

# *A Follow Up Bible Study*

*Building on the Messages of the Lessons for Saint Luke, Evangelist*

## **Warm Up**

Luke is called an *Evangelist*. What does *evangelist* mean, literally and the various ways it's used?

Paul tells Timothy to *do the work of an evangelist* (2 Tim 4:5). Why don't we call Timothy an evangelist?

The book of Luke is one of the four Gospels. Does that mean everything in Luke is gospel?

Consider these words in Luke 1: <sup>19</sup> *The angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God and was sent to speak to you in order to tell you this good news. <sup>20</sup> Now listen, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things happen, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at the proper time."*

If your friend knew nothing about the Bible, how would you briefly and simply describe the content of the four Gospels?

The four Gospels seem to have gotten that label from the opening words of Mark.

*The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

## **1. Sermon for October 18, 2020**

**Text: Luke 1:1-4; 24:44-53**

**Theme: Our faith is not based on fake news, but facts. Witness it. Give witness.**

**Share your** questions or comments regarding Sunday's sermon.

**Share your** questions or comments regarding Sunday's sermon **text**.

## **2. What do the opening words **tell you** and what do they **suggest**?**

*Many have undertaken to compile an account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, <sup>2</sup> an account like those handed down to us by those who were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word from the beginning.*

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3. Identify 3 things Luke lists as the reasons he set to provide this written record of the events.

*<sup>3</sup> For this reason, it seemed good to me also, since I followed everything closely from the beginning, to write an orderly account to you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> so that you may know the certainty of the things you were taught.*

*Theophilus* means lover of God (with brotherly love). Some have argued that *Theophilus* was not a real person, but a reference to anyone who is a *lover of God, the true God*. What in Luke's text seems to indicate that he was writing to an individual named Theophilus?

4. Luke's account of Jesus' appearance in the locked room Easter evening begins this way:

*<sup>36</sup> As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."*

*<sup>37</sup> But they were terrified and frightened and thought they were looking at a ghost.*

*<sup>38</sup> He said to them, "Why are you troubled? Why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> While they still did not believe it (because of their joy), and while they were still wondering, he said to them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"*

*<sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish and some honeycomb. <sup>43</sup> He took it and ate in front of them.*

*<sup>44</sup> He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms."*

The 2 disciples Jesus walked with on the road to Emmaus were telling this sizable gathering about Jesus' extended visit when suddenly the risen Lord Jesus appeared among them. Even though they had the report of the women, Peter, and these 2 they were terrified and frightened by Jesus' sudden appearance. Jesus didn't ask permission to enter (i.e. knock). He just showed up standing among them. Processing this unique experience was challenging. **What was the first thing** Jesus did to help them process what they witnessed? (v. 38)

Jesus didn't just want to comfort them. He wanted many eyewitnesses who could testify to his physical resurrection from the dead. What evidence did Jesus provide? (v. 39-42)

Being convinced that this was indeed Jesus in flesh and blood - that his body was raised back to life - required establishing the facts. But what they saw seemed *unbelievable*. Our text provides additional witnesses to **make sense of** and **confirm the reality** of their eyewitness. Identify the 2 additional witnesses that explain this once-in-all-history event.

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5. Jesus didn't just remind them. He taught them once again. While this was not new news, they saw it in a new light. They saw it fulfilled. These realities (seen, heard, touched), while never seen before, fell into place (could be processed) as God's plan unfolded before them.

*<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> He said to them, "This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."*

Jesus prophesied the events listed in v. 46 eight to nine months beforehand, pointing to God's prophecies and promises in the Scriptures. They were eyewitnesses of God's working in real time (history). They were also going to be witnesses of 2 more promises, but not merely as observers, but recipients and actors in these prophecies fulfilled. **Name these 2.** (v. 47-49)

In other words, not only would the events of Holy Week, confirmed by Scripture and commonly observed by them, confirm God's working in reality/history, the event of Pentecost and its ongoing work in them and through them would continue to confirm and comfort them that all this was real - the real work of the real and living God. Luke is an example of this.

How do we experience the same confirmation, that what we have been taught is real/true? After all, that was Luke's purpose: *so that you may know the certainty of the things you were taught.* Note the role and importance of being actively involved in the community of believers.

6. A Sermon is not a faithful proclamation of God's Word if it doesn't teach both Law and Gospel with the Gospel being predominate. What is the Good News in this Sermon Theme?  
**Our faith is not based on fake news, but facts. Witness it. Give witness.**

What is the Law in this theme?

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Accounts only recorded in Luke. Thanks be to God for Luke's record of these accounts.

- The angel's announcement and birth of John the Baptist & the Song of Zechariah
- The angel's announcement to Mary. The Song of Mary
- The Nativity of our Lord (Luke 2)
- The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple - Simeon & Anna - Song of Simeon
- The 12 year old Jesus in the Temple
- The genealogy of Jesus back to Adam - the Savior of all of Adam's descendants. Also Mary's descent from King David, Jesus was the Son of David.
- A fuller account of Jesus' rejection in Nazareth - their attempt to kill him. (Mark is brief)
- Six Woes to the Pharisees - warning against religiosity.
- Parable of the Rich Fool
- Parable of Grace for the Fig tree (Lk 13) - New Year's Eve Gospel
- Healing of the crippled woman
- Illustration of the Narrow Door
- 3 Parables of the Lost: Sheep, Coin, Son
- Parable of the Shrewd Manager
- Rich Man and Poor Lazarus
- Healing of the 10 Lepers
- Parables of the Persistent Widow & Pharisee and Tax Collector in the Temple
- Zacchaeus - Theme Verse: <sup>10</sup> *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*
- The accounts of the Ascension (Gospel and fuller account in Acts)
- The history of the early church - the Book of Acts

## **First Lesson: Isaiah 43:8-13**

7. Yahweh challenges people of all nations:

<sup>8</sup> *Bring out the people who are blind, though they have eyes,  
and the people who are deaf, though they have ears.*

<sup>9</sup> *Let all the nations be gathered together,  
and let peoples be assembled.*

*Who among them has declared this?*

*Who has made known to us the former things?*

*Let them produce their witnesses to show that they were right,  
so that people can hear and say, "This is truth."*

What is the problem with those who don't know and worship Yahweh?

What's Yahweh's challenge to get them to see they are living a lie?

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8. Now Yahweh speaks to us, his people, about our role in all of humanity.

<sup>10</sup> *You are my witnesses, declares the LORD.  
You are my servant, whom I have chosen,  
so that you may know me and believe in me,  
so that you will understand that I am he.  
Before me no god was formed,  
and after me there will not be another.*

<sup>11</sup> *I, yes I, am the LORD,  
and apart from me there is no savior.*

<sup>12</sup> *I myself declared it.  
I brought salvation, and I announced it.  
It was not some strange god among you.  
You are my witnesses, declares the LORD,  
and I am God.*

<sup>13</sup> *Indeed, from the first day, I am he.  
There is no one who can deliver anyone from my hand.  
I act, and who can reverse it?*

What have we witnessed? What do we know? How does this confirm our faith?

## **Second Lesson: 2 Timothy 4:5-11**

10. Why do you think this lesson was appointed for the Festival of St. Luke, Evangelist?

<sup>5</sup> *As for you, keep a clear head in every situation. Bear hardship. Do the work of an evangelist. Fulfill your ministry.*

<sup>6</sup> *You see, I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> From now on, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness. The Lord, the righteous Judge, will give it to me on that day, and not only to me but also to everyone who loved his appearing.*

<sup>9</sup> *Make every effort to come to me quickly, <sup>10</sup> for Demas, because he loved this present world, has forsaken me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. <sup>11</sup> Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is useful to me for ministry.*