**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 10 November 2021**

**Queens Chapel UMC \* 7410 Muirkirk Road \* Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Will Butler**

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**The Gospel of Luke**

**Key Verse**: **Luke 1:4**

“So that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

**Homework**

1. **Was Luke a disciple of Jesus Christ?**

* Luke was an evangelist and author.
* He was a Gentile
* He was not an eye-witness to Jesus’ teachings or miracles (Lk 1:1)
* He was a companion of the Apostle Paul

1. **How did Luke receive his knowledge of Jesus Christ?**

Read **Luke 1:1-2**

1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us,

2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.

1. **What moved/inspired Luke to write this Gospel of Jesus Christ?**

Read **2 Peter 1:20-21**

  20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things.

21 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

**Background of The Gospel of Luke:**

1. The Gospel of Luke was dedicated to a man named “Theophilus”—*lover of God* *(Luke 1:1-2)*

* Scholars believe Theophilus was a nickname or a pseudonym—a fictitious name used by Luke to conceal his real identity.
* Theophilus was a well-known Roman dignitary of Caesar’s household—which could have been the reason why Luke used a fictitious name.
* Luke probably anticipated a broader audience reading this letter who were of the household of Caesar therefore using a nickname was appropriate—

1. Christian’s historians believe there were many followers of Jesus Christ that were part of Caesar’s household**—Read Philippians 4:21-22**

21 Greet all God’s people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings. 22 All God’s people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar’s household.

1. Since Luke declared in **Luke 1:2** “just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word.”

* Luke was not implying that he was not under Divine inspiration.
* Luke’s research and writings was orchestrated by the providential hand of God—**Read 2 Peter 1:20-21**

  20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things.

21 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

1. Scripture is not from human philosophy or one’s own interpretation of life.

* The Greek word for “Interpretation” is a word that means ““losing””—that is, Scripture is not the result of a human being losing one’s private perception of truth

1. No part of Scripture was ever, at any time, produced the way men wanted it.

* **The prophets of the Old Testament, under God’s inspiration, wrote what they did not fully understand**. Yet, they remained faithful to the Holy Writ. **Consider 1 Peter 1:10-11 (NLT)**

10 This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you.

11 They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ’s suffering and his great glory afterward.

* In other word, the prophets of the Old Testament could not comprehend God’s method of salvation for the world—but they still wrote about it.

**2 Peter 1:21**

21 For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, **though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

1. Even though Luke explained to Theophilus he was writing an orderly account from an eyewitness, *(Luke 1:2-3)* He was carried along by the Holy Spirit.

* In other words, God the Holy Spirit guided Luke so that using his own individual personality, thought processes and vocabulary, Luke composed and recorded what he heard, without error, the exact words God wanted him to write.

**Theological Themes:**

1. Luke’s style was that of a scholarly, well-read author who wrote as a meticulous historian.

* Luke always gives details that helped the reader identify the historical context of the event.

**Luke 1:5**

When Herod was king of Judea, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. He was a member of the priestly order of Abijah, and his wife, Elizabeth, was also from the priestly line of Aaron.

**Luke 3:1-2**

1 It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler over Galilee; his brother Philip was ruler over Iturea *[I-tur-e-a]* and Traconitis; *[tra-co-ne-tis]* Lysanias *[ly-san-e-an]* was ruler over Abilene. *[a-buh-leen]*

2 Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. At this time a message from God came to John’s son of Zechariah, who was living in the wilderness.

1. Luke’s account of the nativity is the fullest and more polished than all the Gospels

* He records the birth narrative and a series of psalms of praise *(Luke 1:46-55; 1:68-79…)*
* He recorded the unusual circumstances surrounding the birth of John the Baptist, the annunciation to Mary, the manger, the shepherds, Simeon and Anna *(Luke 2:25-38)*

1. One of the many themes we’ll discover in Luke’s Gospel is Jesus’ compassion for Gentiles, Samaritans, women, children, tax collectors, sinners, and others regarded as outcast in Israel.
2. Luke mentioned the salvation of those who were rich and respectful. For example, **Luke 23:50-53**

50 Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph. He was a member of the Jewish high council,

51 but he had not agreed with the decision and actions of the other religious leaders. He was from the town of Arimathea in Judea, and he was waiting for the Kingdom of God to come.

52 He went to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body.

53 Then he took the body down from the cross and wrapped it in a long sheet of linen cloth and laid it in a new tomb that had been carved out of rock.

1. Again and again, we’ll see how Jesus ministered to those most in need of His grace—**Luke 5:31-32**

31 Jesus answered them, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor—sick people do.

32 I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent.”

**Luke 15:4-7**

4 “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it?

5 And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders.

6 When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’

7 In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!

1. Luke focuses on women such as: Mary, Elizabeth and Anna. He gives them prominence in *Luke 1-2*.

* Luke emphasized the central role of women in the life and ministry of Jesus *(Luke 7:12-15, 37-50; 8:2-3, 43-48…)*
* The events of the resurrection morning included the women again in major roles. *(Luke 24)*

1. From Luke 9 until the end, Luke devotes 10 chapters of Jesus’ journey to the cross.

* We’ll also discover that this is the heart of Luke’s Gospel—Jesus’ relentless progression towards the cross.

**Luke 18:31-33**

31 Taking the twelve disciples aside, Jesus said, “Listen, we’re going up to Jerusalem, where all the predictions of the prophets concerning the Son of Man will come true.

32 He will be handed over to the Romans, and he will be mocked, treated shamefully, and spit upon.

33 They will flog him with a whip and kill him, but on the third day he will rise again.”

**Luke 24:25-26**

25 Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures.

26 Wasn’t it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?”

**Homework:**

**Read: Luke 1:1-25**

1. If you were to give an account of Jesus’ life and you had 15 minutes, what events would you mention?
2. What is your spiritual gift?
3. How are you serving God?
4. Have you ever doubted God?
5. What happened to Zacharias when he responded in unbelief?