



The Message of the Bible

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## Week 25: Luke

### The Structure of Luke

<b>Birth through Baptism</b> 1–3	<b>Ministry in Galilee</b> 4–9	<b>Journey to Jerusalem</b> 10–19	<b>Teaching in Jerusalem</b> 19–21	<b>Death, Resurrection &amp; Ascension</b> 22–24
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### The Teaching of Luke

#### *Birth through Baptism (Luke 1–3)*

1. The work of the Holy Spirit is demonstrated in
  - a. the birth of the forerunner, John (1:15, 41, 67)
  - b. the birth of Jesus (1:35)
  - c. the life of Simeon (2:25–26)
  - d. the preaching of John (3:16)
  - e. the baptism of Jesus (3:22)
  - f. the leading of Jesus into the wilderness (4:1)
  - g. the power demonstrated in Jesus' life (4:13)
  - h. the testimony of Jesus Himself (4:18)
2. Luke shows the divine sonship of Jesus by
  - a. the divine conception (1:35)
  - b. the testimony of Elizabeth (1:42)
  - c. the testimony of the angels (2:11)
  - d. the testimony of God (3:22)
  - e. the genealogy of Jesus (3:23–38)
  - f. the testimony of Satan (4:3, 9)

#### *Jesus' Ministry in Galilee (Luke 4:1–9:50)*

*Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem (Luke 9:51–19:27)*

*When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem. (Luke 9:51)*

1. Luke records a significant amount of material about Jesus' teaching (especially about the kingdom of God), healing, and confrontations on the way to Jerusalem.
2. An important theme is the nature of discipleship in the kingdom of God.
  - a. The blessings of God's kingdom would only be enjoyed by those who paid the price (9:57–62).
  - b. Those who proclaim the gospel of the kingdom represented the King and were thus to announce the simple message in service of Him and His work (10:1–24). Why would Luke include these instructions if they were not still needed by the church?
  - c. A disciple of the kingdom is singularly devoted to Jesus (10:38–42).
  - d. Prayer (11:1–13), repentance (13:1–9), forgiveness, and faith (17:1–19) are central to disciples.
  - e. A disciple of the kingdom is sincere and honest before God (12:1–12), trusts in God and not wealth (12:22–34), and lives with the expectation of the coming of the Son of Man (12:35–40). At the same time, greed and possessions may keep one from the kingdom (12:13–21; 18:18–27).
  - f. In response to Peter's inquiry about whether His teaching applied to others beyond His immediate disciples, Jesus shows that they apply to any faithful servant, who is characterized as one who waits patiently for Jesus' return (12:41–48).
  - g. True disciples count the cost, forsake all, and follow Jesus (14:25–35).
  - h. For those who await Jesus' return, they pray persistently but humbly that God's kingdom would come (18:1–17).
  - i. Those who pay the price of a disciple for the kingdom will be rewarded (18:28–30).
  - j. Despite His instruction, Jesus' disciples failed to understand his mission to fulfill the mission of the suffering servant (18:31–34). However, the blind man (18:35–43) and Zaccheus (19:1–10) demonstrated the faith of a true disciple of the kingdom.
3. Jesus also teaches much about the nature of the kingdom of God itself.
  - a. His message was consistent with the Old Testament (10:25–29), however, Jesus extended its expectations beyond their understanding of the Law (e.g. the Good Samaritan). Later, Jesus will show that the purpose of Moses and the Prophets (i.e., the OT Scriptures) was to lead sinners to God's kingdom, not exclude them (16:19–31).
  - b. In response to a controversy after His exorcising a demon (11:14), Jesus logically deduces that a divided kingdom will not stand. In doing so, He makes the point that His powerful deeds demonstrates that the kingdom of God has come upon them (11:20). His kingdom rests on the power of God's word (11:27–28).
  - c. The kingdom of God was different than the idea about the kingdom held by those in Jesus' day, specifically in regard to the Sabbath (13:10–17; 14:1–6).
  - d. The parables of the mustard seed and the leaven taught that the kingdom would one day fill the whole world (13:18–21). However, rejection of the kingdom meant the

door would be closed to them, but the kingdom would be received by those among the nations (13:22–30; cf. Acts 11:1). Yet, there was still hope for Jerusalem (13:31–35).

- e. It is for those who are humble, poor, crippled, lame, and blind; it is not for those who are proud, rich, and exclusive (14:7–14). The latter are invited but reject (14:15–24).
  - f. Whereas the Pharisees and scribes were appalled that Jesus received and dined with sinners, Jesus taught—through the parables of the lost sheep, coin, and son—that the purpose of the kingdom consisted of the lost who were redeemed (ch. 15). These would be accepted into the kingdom with joy.
  - g. When asked about the coming of the kingdom of God, Jesus replied to the Pharisees that it was in their midst, but they ultimately rejected it (17:20–21). Jesus would return (17:22–37), but He first had to suffer and be rejected by that generation (17:25).
  - h. With their approach to Jerusalem, some thought the kingdom would be coming immediately. However, Jesus taught that the time had not yet come, so those who would enter the kingdom must wait faithfully for His return (19:11–27).
4. The hardness of heart of those who rejected the kingdom was demonstrated by their request for a sign (11:15). Jesus compared them to the generation of Jonah (11:29–36) and announced a series of woes upon the Pharisees (11:37–54).

5. .

*Jesus in Jerusalem (Luke 19:28–21:38)*

*Jesus' Death, Resurrection, & Ascension (Luke 22–24)*

1. On the road to Emmaus, Jesus rebukes the two men not simply for failing to believe the report about the empty tomb but more for their failure to recognize what the Scriptures teach about the Christ (24:25–26).

*Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. (Luke 24:27)*

2. Moreover, the last words Luke records bear the same testimony: Jesus' life, death, and resurrection all came about to fulfill what was written about Him in "the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms" (24:44).
3. Therefore, Jesus "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (24:45). Specifically, the Scriptures taught that (1) the Christ would suffer, (2) the Christ would rise again, and (3) repentance for forgiveness would be proclaimed to all the nations (24:46–47).

## **The Purposes of Luke**

1. .

## **How should I respond?**

