

Luke- Pt 1 “Birth announcements”

Introduction Flow – “Book of Kells”

In Dublin there is an exhibit at Trinity College that has received the attention of much of the world. The Book of Kells is an illustrated and ornamented manuscript of the four Gospels which dates to around AD 800. Those who have arranged this exhibit don't let the public see the Gospels immediately. In wisdom they lead you through some very old books which prepare you for the great treasure itself. By the time you reach the heart of the exhibit you have already been led back to the world of early Celtic Christianity, to the monks who painstakingly spent years of their life copying out parts of the Bible and lavishly decorating it. Now in your process toward the book you are now ready to appreciate it much better.

Luke has done something similar in the opening of his Gospel. Luke's story is principally about Jesus but the name of Jesus is not mentioned for the first 30 verses. I believe Luke knows we must prepare our minds and hearts for this story. So he begins with the story of a devout couple going through their daily lives.

Today's sermon will be an introduction to Luke, really a glimpse into the historian, the theologian and the man.

Who is Luke? Read Lk 1:1-4

- Luke is the author of both volumes Acts, and Luke
- Written somewhere in the AD 60's (wrote Luke & Acts)
- He was a physician and companion of Paul
- Luke had an accurate mind- uses synchronism to date his events/ writes in a parallels and comparisons

His passion-

What are you passionate about? Have you ever been gripped by something that you can't get enough of?

Consider- The first time anyone ever stood up and proclaimed Jesus was Acts 2 when the wind of the Spirit filled Jesus' followers with ¹Fruit, ²Power, ³Purpose. **This was a great day! Birthday of the Church!**

This message was for everyone- Peter made that clearly known. Peter who was just a few weeks prior crying like a baby, is now standing on his feet sharing the message of Jesus, telling the world the God has done something that will change the world forever. What God has done for him, He was going to do for everyone, Forgiveness, hope, power of the Spirit – a new age- a Kingdom age –

The presence of the future has broken in to this age- “inaugurated, enacted, eschatology”

This reality of the Kingdom that began then and there is for everyone!

Acts 2:39 For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”

The reality of this “everyone promise” began to come to pass and spread throughout the known world. This happened through the writings of early Christian leaders. Luke being one of them.

His habit of accuracy-

Accuracy is a habit of the mind (my time in Montana with Robert)

Consider this introduction that Luke gives, he does not just ask you to trust him. Luke is making an appeal with evidence.

1. Others have written on these events
2. He has interviewed eyewitnesses
3. He has listened to accredited teachers within local communities

Vs. 1 Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things ^[a]accomplished among us,

- Its clear by this verse that Luke was aware of other sources -
- Theologians believed that Luke gathered sources from others particularly from Mark

Vs 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning ^[b]were eyewitnesses and ^[c]servants of the ^[d]word,

- Imagine ancient Palestine- no print, newspapers, TV, radio
- Official, accredited "stewards of the word" were heralds that were assigned particular stories –
- The culture of the day believed that story-telling was the most reliable

Plato- Serious thought should not be put into writing but rather inscribed in the mind or soul

Quote – "You can't tell where a book came from, but you can look a living testimony in the eyes and decide to trust them or not." unknown

Vs 3 it seemed fitting for me as well, having ^[e]investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write *it* out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus;

- We see Luke stating that he is writing these things down but why?
- The main reason is because the gospel has spread way beyond the local communities where Jesus was and the message was becoming muddy and distorted, so Luke and other leaders
- Luke has a much wider educated, intelligent audience in mind
- Not sure who Theophilus is – real person or literary device (lovers of God)

Vs. 4 so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been ^[f]taught.

- Towns and villages being destroyed, generations were dying out and eyewitnesses of Jesus were being dispersed
- Stories that once depended on a peaceful, stable society were dying out
- That combined with the conviction of the recent world changing events , Luke wrote it and hit send!

What is the main theme in Luke/Acts?

- The message of the Kingdom of God (power and authority of King Jesus given to you and I)
- The power of the Spirit is manifested to and through the "everyone promise"
- We are now living in a "new messianic age" (fulfillment of OT prophecy)

What or how does this apply to us today? (ministry time themes)

- We get to receive this "everyone promise" today!
- Holy Spirit is here to "break in" to our reality – The presence of the future
- Holy Spirit is here to forgive / heal / deliver /save