

Let's Worship God

3rd-8th September 2018

Luke



THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Monday - Luke 1:1-4 - Luke

We are now going to begin a study of the book of Luke. The notes are taken from J.C. Ryle's commentary on Luke and Matthew Henry's commentary on Luke.

The author of this Gospel is Luke. We don't know all that much about this man, but we can assume a few things. First of all, Luke is a Gentile name not a Jewish one. It seems likely that this man is a Gentile believer. He is also a doctor (Colossians 4:14), a friend and travelling companion of Paul, and the author of Acts. Luke's medical interests come out in his focus on Christ's healing miracles. The book is written to a man named Theophilus, the same man to whom the book of Acts is written. Theophilus is also a Gentile name, and from the way Luke addresses him ('most excellent') we might assume that he is an important and influential person - perhaps some powerful magistrate.

Luke's purpose in writing is to set down the facts about Jesus Christ. Christianity is based on facts. The apostles go out preaching plain and simple facts - the Son of God came to earth, lived for us, died for us, and rose from the dead for us. Luke knows that if these facts are not written down they might become distorted and changed over time. So, he sets out to record the facts upon which our faith is based.

So, where does Luke get his information, not being one of the apostles? Luke writes by the inspiration of God. Like the other authors of the Bible, he gets his information from God. The Holy Spirit leads him to the right sources of information and supplies him with thoughts, arrangements of sentences, and even words. We can thank God that He has provided us with a perfect record of what He has done for us.

Questions

1. Who was Luke?
2. Why did he write this book? Where did he get his information?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's Word.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:37

Praise: Psalm 67 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Tuesday - Luke 1:5-12 - Silence Broken

God's Word has prophesied that when the Messiah comes, someone will go before Him to prepare the way (Malachi 3:1). This forerunner is going to be born into the family of a priest. We can hardly begin to imagine how amazing and important the angel's message to Zechariah is. It is the first time God speaks to Israel since the days of Malachi, 400 years earlier. Finally, the long silence is broken, the prophecy of Daniel (Daniel 9:25) is fulfilled, and the promise of the seed in whom all the nations of the earth will be blessed is kept (Genesis 22:18).

Zechariah and Elizabeth are godly believers at a time when faith is rare, and most people around them simply go through the motions of religion. In many ways we are in the same kind of situation as them - surrounded by unbelief and hypocrisy. We must work hard at being faithful in all areas of our life as they do.

Even though they are faithful, Zechariah and Elizabeth have trials in their life. This couple is childless, a huge burden to bear at any time, but especially in a culture where to be childless is seen as shame and disgrace. Being a Christian doesn't exempt you from hardship and suffering. But thankfully, for a believer, trials drive us to God rather than away from Him.

Never do angels appear so much on the earth as they do during the life of Christ. Perhaps one reason for this is to emphasise that Jesus Christ is not just another angel - He is Lord over these angels, and they exist to do His bidding. Zechariah's reaction is one of fear - fear that comes from his awareness of his sin in contrast to the holiness of the angel. But if we fear judgement before a holy angel, how much more will we fear a holy God. We must give thanks that Christ, our Mediator, takes away this fear enabling us to come before God as our Father.

Questions

1. Why is the appearance of an angel so amazing?
2. Why is Zechariah afraid of this angel?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's love for us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:37

Praise: Psalm 68 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

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Wednesday - Luke 1:13-17 - Covenant Child

Just because God doesn't answer our prayers for a long time, doesn't mean the answer is no. Zechariah and Elizabeth have prayed for a child for years and years. Finally, God is answering their prayer. This should encourage us, especially as we pray for the salvation of others. God, who knows the best time for a child to be born, also knows the best time for one to be born again. We must not despair that a person will never become a Christian just because we have prayed for it for a long time.

John is going to bring joy to his parents? Why? Because he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. There is nothing that can bring more joy to parents than to see their children loving the Lord. Our children's salvation should be the first and most constant prayer of everyone in the church - it's far more important than wealth, ability, beauty, or even health. It is their love of the Lord that will make our children great to the One who matters most.

Children are never too young to receive the grace of God. Look at verse 15. The angel tells Zechariah that John will be filled with the Holy Spirit "even from birth". Another translation reads "from his mother's womb." John is a Christian before he is born. He isn't conceived a Christian, but at sometime between his conception and his birth, his heart is changed and he believes. What an amazing thing! God is able to change anyone's hearts - even our youngest children. We must see them as responsible to God and stop imagining they are too young to believe. The heart that is not too young to sin, is not too young to be filled with the grace of God.

Questions

1. Why will John bring joy to his parents?
2. What should we pray for, for our children?
3. How can we expose our children to the Gospel?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for our covenant children.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:37

Praise: Psalm 69 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

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Thursday - Luke 1:18-25 - Unbelief

Righteous and holy as Zechariah is, the angel's words seem impossible. He is a Jew, an educated Jew - he should have known better. He should remember the births of Isaac, Samson, and Samuel, and that nothing is impossible with God. But he is thinking in man's terms not God's. Unbelief is at the heart of all our sin. It is something that will never be completely rooted out until the day of our death. It is when we believe ourselves or others instead of believing God. It is calling God a liar, and He takes it very seriously.

In contrast to Zechariah's unbelief, there is the angel Gabriel. This angel counts it the highest honour to stand in God's presence and do His will. He spends his days in believing service of God, and his words are a sharp rebuke to Zechariah.

We should watch and pray daily against the unbelief in our own lives. We far too easily believe what television, music, and magazines tell us is important and true. Almost daily we find ourselves doing what we think is best without a thought of what God thinks. This unbelief weakens our Christian witness and will hurt us when trials come, and we need a strong faith. We must believe that what God says is true and best and like Gabriel count it our highest honour to stand in God's presence and do His will. With the man in Mark 9 we must say to Jesus, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" (Mark 9:24)

Questions

1. What is unbelief?
2. Why should Zechariah have known better?
3. What should we consider an honour?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that our faith would increase.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:37

Praise: Psalm 70 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Friday - Luke 1:26-33 - Mary

Here in these verses is the announcement of one of the most important things that has ever happened - the incarnation and birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. And where is this announcement made? In an obscure town, of an obscure region, in an obscure country to an obscure, probably poor, girl. It would have been a humiliation for Jesus, the Son of God, to have been born of a noble and wealthy woman and to reign as the greatest and most powerful king of all the earth. How much more to be born in a stable to a poor girl and to lead a life of suffering and death. God's grace in coming to earth should take our breath away.

The Roman Catholic Church teaches that Mary is one equal with Jesus, sinless, someone to be prayed to, who takes those prayers to God. Nowhere do we find this in Scripture. But we must also recognise that Mary has been highly honoured more than any other woman. God has shown incredible grace to her. Because she deserves it? No, because He chooses to for His own reasons. By one woman, sin and death are brought into the world, and through one woman, light and life come to men. But Jesus Himself teaches that those who do the will of God are counted as His mother, brothers, and sisters. Through faith, we, like Mary, can belong to the family of God.

Gabriel tells Mary something of who Jesus will be. He will be the king long ago promised to David. Not a king the way the world thinks a king should be, but the true king who will rule over all people, things, and circumstances forever. We have the great privilege of serving this king.

Questions

1. How did Jesus humble Himself?
2. Why is Mary so honoured?
3. What kind of king is Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“For nothing will be impossible with God.” Luke 1:37

Praise: Psalm 71 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE GOSPEL

ACCORDING TO LUKE

Saturday - Luke 1:34-38 - Incarnation

The incarnation - God becoming man, conceived in the womb of a virgin, and born without sin - is a miracle and a mystery. We can't explain how it happened, and we shouldn't try to speculate. It is enough to know and believe that it happened. The angel doesn't explain to Mary in detail how this miracle will happen, and if Mary doesn't need to know, why do we?

We are told that this miracle of incarnation happens through the power of the Holy Spirit. We can often neglect or ignore this third person of the Trinity, but we need to remember the vital role He plays in our salvation. He is the one who enabled Jesus to do what He has to do (Hebrews 9:14; 1 Peter 3:18); He is the one who comes to the disciples, teaching them what they need to know; He is the one who has changed your heart of stone to a heart of flesh; and He is the one who enables you to die to sin and live for Christ. We should praise and thank Him with all our hearts.

Gabriel lays down an incredibly important principle - "Nothing is impossible with God." If we could only fully grasp this in our hearts and minds, how changed our lives would be. There is no sin too bad to be forgiven. No heart too hard or wicked to be changed. No work too difficult for a believer to do. No trial too hard to endure. No promise too great to be answered. With us, there is much that is impossible when done in our own strength. But done in God's strength, nothing is impossible.

Mary's knows that along with this great honour will come great dishonour in the world's eyes. Her situation will be a scandal, her closest friendships could be destroyed, in earthly terms her life could be ruined. But she makes no complaint, only humbly submits to her Lord and Saviour.

Questions

1. What is the incarnation?
2. What principle should we remember in our lives?
3. What things seem impossible to you today?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:37

Praise: Psalm 72 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced for the RP Global Alliance
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