

Encountering Jesus: Studies in the Gospel of Luke (1-14-18)

PASSIONATE PURSUIT OF JESUS

(Luke 1:1-4)

I. SERIES: ENCOUNTERING JESUS: STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

- A. The knowledge of God is our greatest need in this hour. There are many distractions from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.
- Phil. 3:7-8 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ***
- B. Revelation is the revealing, unveiling, illuminating of the darkened heart to see and truly know God. It takes God to know God. Only He can reveal Himself to us - because our hearts are dull.
- Eph. 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.***
- C. Wisdom is applying the knowledge that you have.
- 1 Chron. 12:32 of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;***
- D. The knowledge of Jesus revealed to us through the Bible being opened to our hearts by the Holy Spirit results in burning hearts that sustains us through every season of life. The knowledge of God not only needs to dwell in our mind, but touch our heart and manifest in our everyday lives as well.
- Luke 24:32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"***
1. Q: Does your knowledge of God strengthen you and give you courage to more fully surrender your life to Him and His leadership?

II. INTRODUCTION (LUKE 1:1-4)

- A. Author: His name is not mentioned in the book but church history nearly unanimously attributes the book to Luke, the physician. Luke also wrote the book of Acts.
- B. Who was Luke?
- Philemon 1: 24 as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers.***
2Tim 4:11 Only Luke is with me...

1. Luke labored with Paul in the Gospel. Near the end of Paul's ministry, Luke was still devoted to the Gospel, even when everyone else departed.
2. Luke was a physician. He had scientific training. He writes with precision and historical accuracy is important to him.

Col. 4:14 Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you

3. Luke was a traveling companion of Paul on his second missionary journey, when they took the Gospel to a new continent. The two sailed to Philippi, where a strong church was founded.
4. Luke was not an eye-witness. He spoke to eye-witnesses. Luke traveled with Paul, so he was probably one source.
5. Luke was not Jewish and he was not one of the original 12 Apostles.
 - a. The Apostles were commissioned to bear witness to Jesus (John 15:26-27)
 - b. Luke was not an Apostle himself. Neither was Mark. Both had accompanied Paul at different points in his missionary journeys.
6. Luke was writing to Theophilus. Lit "Lover of God" or "Friend of God."

Acts 1:1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

- C. The Synoptic Gospels. The first church was exclusively Jewish (Matthew). Next, Paul took the Gospel to the Roman province of Asia. Mark accompanied Paul on these Missionary journeys (Mark). On his second missionary journey, Paul took the Gospel to the Greek world. Luke accompanied Paul in these Missionary journeys and wrote the Gospel of Luke. Luke's name suggests that he was Greek.

III. PASSIONATE PURSUIT

- A. Pursue the knowledge of God as you go through the book of Luke. A spirit of wisdom and revelation is God's Spirit touching our spirit, our innermost-self to know Him and live my life differently than the way I'm living now. (1 Chron. 12:32; Prov. 2:1-4)

1 Chron. 12:32 of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command;

Q: What season are you in right now? What is Holy Spirit saying needs to be done now?