

Just Jesus

An Introduction to the Christian Faith through Luke's Gospel

Luke was a Gentile who was well educated in the Greek culture. He was a doctor by profession. He accompanied Paul on a number of his missionary journeys.

Luke's Gospel begins with the promise of Jesus' Birth, moves on to cover his life's work, teaching and death and finishes with his resurrection and ascension to heaven.

Luke is keen to explain to us the way of salvation. A good summary of his message is found in the words of Zacchaeus that Luke records in Chapter 19:10, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

In the 'Just Jesus Course' we will be looking at the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke who will answer four questions for us -

Study 1 - Who is Jesus?

Study 2 - Why did he die?

Study 3 - Where is he now?

Study 4 - What must I do?

No. 1 - Jesus: Who is He?

1. Luke's Gospel (1:1-4)

"Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. Therefore, since I myself have everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught."
(Luke 1:1-4)

2. His Birth

a) Promised (1:26-38)

"You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the.....
..... The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his will never end." (Luke 1:31-33)

b) Fulfilled (2:1-12)

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. "Today in the town of David a has been born to you; he is his will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."" (Luke 2:10-12)

3. His Ministry Begins

a) *Baptised (3:21-23)*

"When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."" (Luke 3:21-22)

b) *Preaches Good News (4:16-21)*

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." (Luke 4:18-19)

c) *Rejected (4:22-29)*

"All the people in the synagogue were when they heard this. "They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to him down the cliff." (Luke 4:28-29)

4. His Authority

a) *As a teacher (4:31-32)*

"Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people. They were amazed at his, because his message had authority." (Luke 4:31-32)

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b) *Over demons and sickness (4:33-39)*

"All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What is this teaching? With and he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!" (Luke 4:36)

c) *To forgive sins (5:17-26)*

"But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to" He said to the paralysed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." (Luke 5:24)

d) *Over death (7:11-17)*

"Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up". The dead man and began to, and Jesus gave him back to his mother." (Luke 7:14-15)

e) *Over nature (8:22-25)*

"The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, ".....? He commands even the winds and the water, and they him." (Luke 8:24-25)

5. His Question

"Who do you say I am ? " (9:18-20)

"But what about you?" he asked. ".....?"
Peter answered, "The Christ of God." (Luke 9:20)

6. Reading this week : Luke 1-8

No. 2 - Jesus: Why did He die?

1. Previous Study

- a) *His Birth*
- b) *His Authority*
- c) *His Question*

2. His approaching death

a) *His predictions (9:18-22; 18:31-34)*

And he said, "The Son of Man must many things and be by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be and on the third day be raised to life." (Luke 9:22)

Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is by the prophets about the Son of Man will be He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again." (Luke 18:32-33)

b) *Its meaning (22:7-20)*

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the kingdom of God." (Luke 22:14-16)

And he took, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in of me." (Luke 22:19)

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In the same way, after the supper he took the, saying,
"This cup is the in my blood, which is poured out
for you. (Luke 22:20)

3. His Trial

a) Betrayed (22:47-53)

While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you the Son of Man with a kiss?" (Luke 22:47-48)

b) Disowned (22:54-62)

The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly. (Luke 22:61-62)

c) Tried (22:66-71)

At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. "If you are the", " they said, "tell us." Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not me, and if I asked you, you would not answer. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right of the mighty God." They all asked, "Are you then the?" He replied, "You are right in saying I am." Then they said, "Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips." (Luke 22:71)

d) Condemned (23:1-25)

Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in

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him for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him." But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be, and their shouts prevailed. So Pilate decided to grant their demand. (Luke 23:20-24)

4. The Cross

a) The darkness (23:44)

It was now about the sixth hour, and came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. (Luke 23:44)

b) The curtain (23:45)

And the curtain of the temple in two. (Luke 23:45)

c) His prayer (23:46-47)

Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a man." (Luke 23:46-47)

5. Why did Jesus die on the cross?

Repentance & forgiveness of sin (24:44-49)

He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and and of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. (Luke 4:46)

6. Reading this week : Luke 9-16

No.3 - Jesus: Where is He Now?

1. Previous Study

- a) *His death*
- b) *Repentance & forgiveness of sins*

2. His resurrection

a) *Predictions (9:18-22; 18:31-33)*

And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be to life." (Luke 9:22)

Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. On the third day he will again." (Luke 18:31-33)

b) *The empty tomb (24:1-12)*

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not the body of the Lord Jesus. (Luke 24:1-3)

In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the among the dead? He is not; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: (Luke 24:5-6)

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c) *The appearances (24:13-49)*

As they talked and discussed these things with each other,
..... came up and walked along with them; but they were
kept from recognizing him. (Luke 24:15-16)

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the
Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is
true! The Lord has risen and has to Simon." While
they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them
and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and
frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you
troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? (Luke 24:36-38)

d) *The ascension (24:25-27 & 50-52)*

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to
believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to
suffer these things and then enter his?" And beginning
with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said
in all the Scriptures concerning himself. (Luke 24:25-27)

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his
hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them
and was into heaven. (Luke 24:50-51)

3. Jesus in "Acts"

In my book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus
.....to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to
heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the
apostles he had chosen. (Acts 1:1-2)

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"Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to by nailing him to the cross. But God him from the dead, freeing him from the

agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. (Acts 2:22-24)

"We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They him by hanging him on a tree, but God him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen--by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. (Acts 10:39-42)

4. Why did Jesus rise from the dead?

Repentance & forgiveness of sins (24:44-48)

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and and of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. (Luke 24:44-48)

5. Reading this week : Luke 17-24

No. 4 - Jesus: What must I do?

1. Previous Study

- a) *Resurrection*
- b) *Repentance & forgiveness of sin*

2. Repentance

a) *Its Necessity (13:1-8)*

I tell you, no! But unless you, you too will all " (Luke 13:5)

b) *Our waiting Father (15:7-32)*

I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. (Luke 15:7)

I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. (Luke 15:18-20)

3. Faith

a) *Responding to God's love (7:36-50)*

Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven--for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." Then Jesus

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said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Jesus said to the woman, "Your has saved you; go in peace."
(Luke 7:47-50)

b) *Responding to God's mercy (18:9-14)*

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have on me, a sinner.' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (Luke 18:13-14)

c) *Responding to God's Son (19:1-9)*

Jesus said to him, "Today has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was" (Luke 19:9-10)

4. Following Jesus

a) *Jesus Challenge (9:23-27)*

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must himself and take up his cross daily and me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. (Luke 9:23-24)

b) *Promise of forgiveness (24:44)*

He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Luke 24:46-47)

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c) The Promise of the Holy Spirit (24:49; Acts 2:37-39)

I am going to send you what my Father has;
but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on
high." (Luke 24:49)

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus
Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift
of the The promise is for you and your
children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God
will call." (Acts 2:37-39)

d) Worship and joy (24:50-53)

While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into
heaven. Then they him and returned to
Jerusalem with great And they stayed continually at
the temple, praising God. (Luke 24:51-53)

5. My response

Dear God - Thank you for sending Jesus, your Son, to die on the cross
as a payment for my sin. Forgive me for ignoring you and living my
life as if you don't matter. I repent by turning back to you, accepting
your offer of forgiveness through Jesus and deciding to trust Him and
follow Him. Through your promised Holy Spirit, give me the
strength to remain faithful to Jesus throughout my life - Amen