

***Cover to Cover: From Genesis to Maps***  
**Sermon # 42 – “Luke”**  
**November 23, 2008**

***The Gospel According to Luke: Some Background Information***

The author is Luke, a companion of Paul (e.g., the “we” sections of Acts), a physician (Colossians 4:14), and a historian (Luke 1:1-4). Like Mark, Luke was not one of the twelve apostles. Indeed, he quite possibly was a Gentile, since he is not listed among the circumcised (Colossians 4:10-14).

Luke’s Gospel was addressed primarily to a Gentile audience. More than the other Gospel writers, Luke emphasized the universality of the Gospel (i.e., Jesus is the Savior of the entire human race, not just the Jews). Thus, in Luke, the ancestry of Jesus is traced all the way back to Adam (rather than to Abraham, as in Matthew’s Gospel). The key thematic verse of the book is Luke 19:10.

Luke had two purposes in writing this book: (1) To provide factual affirmation of the faith to a man named Theophilus (whose name meant “lover of God”). (2) To present Jesus as the Son of Man and the Savior of the World.

The Gospel of Luke is the first half of a two-part work written by Luke and addressed to Theophilus. The second volume is the Book of Acts, a history of the early church. The content of these two books represent approximately 28% of the New Testament.

Luke tells us more about people than did the other Gospel writers. He speaks frequently of sinners, the poor and the outcasts of Jewish society. He tells of Gentiles, as well as Samaritans, coming to faith in Christ. He says much about women and children. He places great emphasis on forgiveness, as well as the joy that accompanies salvation. He has more to say about money and material things than any other New Testament writer. He also focuses more on prayer and the Holy Spirit than the other Gospel writers. The Gospel of Luke contains 28 parables, more than any other Gospel. More than a dozen of these parables are unique to Luke.

***The Gospel According to Luke: An Outline***

**1. The Son of Man: Prelude and Preparation. Chapters 1-3**

- The Preface: Luke’s Purpose and Approach. 1:1-4
- The Births of John the Baptist and Jesus. 1:5-2:52
- The Preparation of Jesus for His Public Ministry. 3:1—4:13

**2. The Son of Man's Ministry in Galilee. 4:14-9:50**

- Return to Nazareth: The Hometown Boy Is Rejected. 4:14-30
- Controversies Arise. Chapters 5 & 6
- The Sermon on the Plain. 6:17-49
- Jesus Heals and Teaches. Chapters 7 & 8
- Jesus and the Twelve. Chapter 9

**3. The Son of Man's Journey to Jerusalem. 9:51-19:27**

- Jesus and the Samaritans:
  - The Revival that Never Happened. 9:51-56
  - The Parable of the Good Samaritan. 10:25-37
  - The Parable of the Grateful Samaritan. 17:11-19
- Three Parables of Lostness. Chapter 15
- Studies in Contrasts:
  - Mary and Martha. 10:38-42
  - The Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector. 18:9-14
  - The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. 16:19-31
- The Conversion of Zacchaeus / Jesus' Purpose Statement 19:1-10

**4. The Son of Man's Ministry in Jerusalem. 19:28-21:38**

**5. The Son of Man's Passion. 22:1-23:56**

A Memorable Exchange: The Thief on the Cross. 23:32-43

**6. The Son of Man's Resurrection and Ascension. 24:1-53**

A Memorable Encounter: The Road to Emmaus. 24:13-35