

# Luke's Gospel – An Inclusive Savior

## Lesson One

### **Introduction** – “Witnesses of the same car accident”

Three see the same accident, but can describe it with some differences

Differences Between the Gospels:

Matthean Community - Jesus was “The Great Teacher/Prophesied King(Fulfiller of Law)”

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” Matt.5:17

Markan Community - Jesus was “The Suffering Servant”

“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me...What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?” Mark 8:34-36

Lukan Community (includes Acts) - Jesus was “The Savior All Nations”

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” Luke 19:10 (Good Samaritan, Prodigal Son, Lost Sheep, Lost Coin show Christ's love and leadership to Jew and Gentile) 25% of this Gospel is entirely different from the others.

**NOTE:** All three synoptic gospels focus on the humanity of Christ (Fully Human)

Johannine Community (not a historical account) - Jesus was and is God.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:1-2 & 14

Luke possesses a passion for “the least of these” and goes out of his way to show how much they meant to Jesus. Luke's gospel is intentionally inclusive.

**NOTE:** Theophilus (Greek for "lover of God") was a person of distinction who might have been Luke's sponsor, who helped him publish this Gospel and Acts. This is giving the reason for Luke to write this Gospel. Apparently, Theophilus had read some of the other Gospels and literature that was out(Mark's Gospel and Quelle). Seemingly Luke's initial purpose was to explain things that Mark and Q did not explain well enough.

[Luke 1:5-38]....."Uncommon" Births for Two Unlikely Women

Luke is the **only** Gospel that tells of John the Baptist's birth

vs.5-7 Zechariah was a priest and Elizabeth was of Aaron's lineage

They were both upright in God's eyes

They had no children, and they were old {this is 1st disenfranchised group}

vs.11-14 Zechariah and Elizabeth are going to have a *son* named **John**(gift from God)

**NOTE:** Women fell under property and cattle on society's priority scale

vs.15-17 John was to be raised as a Nazarite(Num. 6) and minister in the spirit of

Elijah (Mal.4:5)

- vs.18-20 Luke describes John as being filled with the Holy Spirit from birth!  
Zechariah questions Gabriel's message and is made speechless until John's birth. (*Remember this for vs.34*)
- vs.21-25 Elizabeth becomes pregnant and is secluded for 5 months. Why?  
Elizabeth praises God for the forthcoming child. She sees his birth as a way of delivering from the shame of not bearing a child
- vs.26-33 Gabriel tells Mary she is highly favored  
Mary's *son* is to be named **Jesus** (salvation of God)
- vs.34-36 Mary questions Gabriel for two apparent reasons: 1. Virgins "can't" have babies (during that time); 2. She was engaged to be married  
Mary is not stricken with anything. Gabriel answers her question.  
**WHY??**
- vs.37-38 God's all powerful!! And Mary is all willing!!  
**NOTE:** Gabriel does **NOT** talk to Joseph in this Gospel. Why is that??

[Luke 1:39-45].....Two Miracle Carriers Converse

- vs.41-45 Mary's greeting causes John to jump and Elizabeth to be filled with the Holy Spirit  
Elizabeth shouts how blessed Mary is. Did someone tell her of Mary's news before Mary got there? If not, how did she know?

**Conclusion:** Luke places an immediate emphasis on the Holy Spirit, but seemingly only four people have the Spirit: John and Jesus from conception, and Mary and Elizabeth. But why these four and not everyone else?