

THE REDEEMER, SAVIOR FRIEND

A Study of Luke 1:1 thru Luke 10:37
by Pastor Joe Meyer

CHAPTER 1

THE PROMISE OF THE FORERUNNER

READ LUKE 1:5-24

When you read about the promise of John the Baptist, it does bring up the question as to why this was needed? Couldn't Jesus just come into our world without the announcer or announcement of His arrival? Why do you think the Lord did it this way? Check **Mark 11:27-33** for an answer. Consider again then these words from Luke: **“And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.....and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”** Luke 1:16,17

John the Baptist would be marked by a certain way of living called a “Nazarite Vow”. Luke writes about John’s lifestyle this way: **“But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.’”** Luke 1:13-15. The Nazarite Vow can be found in **Numbers 6:1-21**. Why do you think the Lord expected this pious lifestyle for John?

One last and very important thing...did you notice what the angel said about John being filled with the Holy Spirit “even from his mother’s womb”? Look at **Luke 1:39-44** for interconnected information. Why does that important truth bolster us as Sacramental Christians?

THE PROMISE OF THE SAVIOR

READ LUKE 1:25-37

One of the more interesting facets of the two birth narratives is that Zechariah gets “dinged” for not believing Gabriel’s announcement...but Mary does not. Why do you think that happened? Didn’t they ask essentially the same question? Check **verses nineteen and twenty** for a clue.

Theologically, what was the import of Mary being a virgin when she conceived Jesus? Let's put it this way, what did it say about His "daddy" and what does it say about Him? Check **Hebrews 4:15** and then **2 Corinthians 5:21**.

Also, when we talk about Jesus, how does the Bible refer to Jesus' connection to His humanity in relation to Mary His mother? Look at **Galatians 4:4-7**. Why is that important info?

THE SONG OF MARY

READ LUKE 1:46-56

This segment is called "The Magnificat" from the first line of Mary's "song of praise" which reads "My soul magnifies the Lord." What are some of the take aways for you from her song? What does it say about Mary? What does it say about the Lord? Compare her "song" to Zechariah's found in **Luke 1:67-80**. What differences did you notice?

CHAPTER 2

THE BIRTH OF THE REDEEMER

READ LUKE 2:1-21

We've come to the favorite segment of Luke's Gospel, one that even the "Peanuts" characters would quote! But we begin this beloved segment with some historical information...why? Why did the Holy Spirit have Luke write that down? Read **Luke 3:1-3** for a similar instance and then go back to **Galatians 4:4-7** and focus on what "In the fullness of time..." means in relation to the history here...and notice that the Lord used the government for His purposes.

Why did the Lord send the angels to shepherds of all people? What was He communicating to us about how He works? **Read Psalm 138**, especially **verse six** and then also consider **Ezekiel 34:11-16** with **John 10:11-18** for another possible reason.

Following up on the thought above, why was Jesus born in a stable? Why not a home? Why not something even more fancy? Consider **2 Corinthians 8:9** in this regard.

JUST TWO OLD PEOPLE?

READ LUKE 2:22-38

The two characters introduced to us in the section are amazing and wonderful! Simeon had an amazing Holy Spirit given promise to see “The Christ” before he died and Anna was an amazingly dedicated servant of the Lord! Whenever you read segments like this it seems that the Lord doesn’t work like He used to e.g. “talking to people” or “healing people” or “working miracles”...is that true? Consider what was written in **James 5:16,17**.

THE TEENAGE RABBI?

READ LUKE 2:41-52

Isn’t this an incredible story? While it’s a very well known story, we don’t often preach about this event but it really is an amazing event in the life of Christ. What are some of the “amazing” things about this story? Make a list. Talk about that and then read **John 6:41-51** and **Matthew 12:1-8**.

CHAPTER 3

THE BAPTISM OF THE REDEEMER

READ LUKE 3:1-22

Luke tells us at the outset that John’s Baptism was “a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” Check **Acts 19:1-7** to determine why that information is important to us as Sacramental Christians.

So...if John’s Baptism was “a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins”...why did Jesus get Baptized? To get at that, be reminded of who Christ was in our world by checking these passages: **Hebrews 4:15; 1Peter 2:22; and 1 John 3:5**.

So...why was He baptized? A great article is found here:
<https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-baptized.html>.

Three reasons rise to the top:

- 1) He was identifying with humanity:
- 2) He was being anointed as the Messiah:
- 3) He was shown to be in connection with the Father and the Spirit:

CHAPTER 4

THE TEMPTATION OF THE CHRIST

READ LUKE 4:1-13

Almost identical to the situation with the Baptism of Jesus, the Temptation of Christ begs the question of “Why?” Why was He tempted...especially when we know He would not have succumbed to satan and his ploys?

- 1) Jesus was again identifying with humanity: **Hebrews 4:15 (again)**
- 2) Jesus was setting an example as to how we face temptation: **James 4:7; Hebrews 2:18**
- 3) Jesus was identifying Himself with Israel: Note the connection of the three temptations with what Israel experienced in the wilderness themselves, namely food, kingdoms and glory.

THE HOMETOWN OF THE REDEEMER

READ LUKE 4:16-30

1) Jesus fulfills Scripture: You know that He does, but the fact that He does is a reminder that God keeps His promises. Take note of what Jesus says in **John 5:39** and then look up the passage Jesus quotes is **Isaiah 61:1,2** to know with certainty. Also look at **Isaiah 35** and apply that not only to what Christ did in His First Coming but also what will happen at the Second Coming. Can you think of others Jesus fulfilled?

2) Jesus was in control: While the people tried to kill Jesus in their anger, Jesus walked right through their midst. How was He able to do that and why weren't they able to kill Him? Look at **John 10:17,18**. Another aspect of this can be picked up in **John 2:1-12**, especially **verse four**.

3) Jesus did not fail: What we don't get in Luke that we do get in **Matthew 13:53-58** is that Jesus did not do many miracles in Nazareth because of...what? Jesus makes a very important statement for us to hang onto today. **Matthew 13:57 reads: "And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.'"**

JESUS THE HEALER

READ LUKE 4:31-41

You know Jesus healed many people and in fact we'll come across many instances in this Gospel of that very thing. Why did Jesus come to heal? What was His purpose in doing so? Consider **Isaiah 29:17-21** and if you'd like, re-read **Isaiah 35**. We usually say it this way: "Jesus came to reverse the affects of our sinful nature." Why? How does that help...beyond the obvious of course. Once you've done that, talk about Jesus coming back to permanently reverse our sinful condition and then consider how that is spoken of in the **Revelation 21:1-4**.

CHAPTER 5

THE CALL OF THE REDEEMER

READ LUKE 5:1-11

This is such an important story! We call this “Jesus calling the first Disciples” but there is so much here!

First of all, take note that Jesus showed the Disciples His true power with the large catch of fish. In other words, Jesus provided the fish in the net...He created the fish in the net! Consider the “Feeding of the 5000” for a comparison **Luke 9:10-17**. Also consider “the rest of the story” as its conclusion sounds a lot like its beginning: **John 21:1-14**. What’s the significance of these two stories (**Luke 5 and John 21**) in relation to Jesus?

Second, take note of the “all-in” nature of discipleship as Luke writes it “**And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him**” **Luke 5:11**. Do you think disciples of Jesus in 2024 consider following Jesus as “all-in”? Look at what Jesus said in **Matthew 16:24-27** and then how Paul describes it in **Colossians 3:1-17**.

Finally, compare and contrast this story to Levi’s, aka Matthew’s, story as Luke recorded it in **Luke 5:27-32**.

THE SAVIOR’S HEART”

READ LUKE 5:17-26

Isn’t this an amazing story? Such a great example of true friendship and deep faith too!

If you recall from the previous story, Jesus proved Himself to be God Almighty by making fish for the nets for the Disciples. But we have yet another instance of Jesus claiming to be God in this text! Take note of the dialogue about Jesus saying “Man, your sins are forgiven.” Of course, to begin with, the paralytic was probably saying to himself “That’s nice...I want to be healed!” But Jesus was intent on making a statement here. How is it that Jesus is

claiming to be God here? Talk about that. Then check a couple key passages that remind us that the Bible does say that Jesus is God: **Romans 9:1-5**; **Colossians 1:15-20**.

Something amazing is said in **verse twenty** about the people who brought their friend to Jesus. What is that and why is it significant? That verse does bring up a question however... and the question is “Will we only be healed if we have enough faith?” How would you answer that? Consider an Old Testament healing story in **2 Kings 5:1-15** and a New Testament story in **John 5:1-19**. Did Naaman have faith before or after the healing? Did the man at the pool of Bethesda have faith before or after the healing? What does that say to you?

CHAPTER 6

REDEEMER AND ... LORD?

READ LUKE 6:1-5

To begin with, consider the fact that our Lord referenced the Old Testament to give validity to what He was doing on the Sabbath. Check the story in **1 Samuel 21:1-6**. Why is that important? And what does the reference to David say about Jesus?

The MUCH bigger thing is what Jesus says about Himself, namely, “**The Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.**” **Luke 6:5**. Why is that such an incredibly important statement? And furthermore, what does it have to do with another important statement of Jesus found in **Matthew 5:17**? After that, consider how important His statement about being the Lord of the Sabbath was for the segment immediately following in **Luke 6:6-11**.

LORD OF MY LIFE?

READ LUKE 6:27-42

This section is likely familiar to you but let’s be honest, it has some hard teachings in it! The hard stuff in this segment is just a reminder that the life of the Christian is a distinct 180 turn around from the way they used to live. Look at and discuss **2 Corinthians 5:14-17** in this regard.

Verse thirty-seven is a particularly misunderstood passage. Let's start with the obvious... you ain't the Judge, only Jesus is. Check **James 4:11,12**. But to bring balance to this subject, especially in a world that thinks they can do whatever they want without being challenged, look at how Matthew was moved to write about this subject in **Matthew 7:1-5**.

CHAPTER 7

THE HEART OF THE HEALER

READ LUKE 7:1-17

Throughout this study we'll see that what Jesus truly came to do is to "reverse the affects of this sinful world". Now, we'll note that this was most completely fulfilled at the cross and the grave, but Jesus also did this by bringing healing to the broken-bodies of those around Him, those who were in need. Look at **Luke 7:18-23** for that information.

Luke 7:1-10 really is amazing in that it's a Roman citizen/centurion who expresses wonderful and godly faith in Christ's ability to heal...amazing because many of the Jews did not believe in Him and in fact, read **Mark 3:22-30** to see who the Jews attributed Jesus' healing work to! Christ's words in nine make even more sense with that story from Mark!

The second healing in this segment is an amazing expression of Christ's compassion for the helpless and hurting. Let me ask you to think about what would happen to this widow if her only son was not raised from the dead by Jesus? What would her life be like? Then, consider God's heart for such as these by looking at **James 1:27**. What does this say about our Lord? Talk about that and then consider the widow story in **1 Kings 17:8-24**.

JESUS FRIEND OF SINNERS

READ LUKE 7:36-50

This is one of those stories that is much loved and well-known. The truth is however, it's also one that is confused and moshed-up with other similar stories. Check and compare those stories: **Matthew 26:6-13/Mark 14:3-9 (at Simon the Leper's house)** and **John 12:1-8 (Lazarus's sister Mary)**...all three of these were at Passover time. Then what is the timing of and who is this sinful woman in Luke?

CHAPTER 8

JESUS AND DEMONS

READ LUKE 8:1-3

There's not a lot of information in these three verses but it brings up an important topic and that is demons, demon possession and demon oppression. This isn't something we see a lot of these days...or is it? Talk about demons and how they show up in our lives. What is it? What isn't it? Look back at **Luke 4:38-41** and remember that not every illness, sickness and disease is demon driven or evil-spirit caused.

Second thing to note here is that Luke makes a point of mentioning Mary Magdalene and the fact that Jesus relieved her of seven demons. Within the immediate context of this Gospel that's very important. Why would I say that? Is Luke giving us a hint to something else that happened previously in the narrative? Since we're talking demons...read **Luke 8:26-39** for another instance of demon possession.

JESUS' LOVE IN A SEED

READ LUKE 8:4-15

This section contains a well-known parable and its explanation. In this segment however, Jesus also gets at why He told the truths of God in parables, as He says it, "...that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand...". Why wouldn't Jesus want them to "see" or "understand" the Gospel? What was it He was trying to prevent? Talk about that and then look at **John 18:36** for an explanation.

As to the parable itself, there's two things to remember: 1) Though three-fourths of the seeds do not mature appropriately, there's nothing wrong with the seed...the seed is still powerful and effective and able to bring about life. So...what does Jesus say that the seed is again? Why is that important for us today and in today's Church? Check two passages: **Hebrews 4:12,13** and **Romans 10:17**. 2) Note that some of the seed sprouted and yet did not continue on to bear fruit. In fact, Jesus said this in **Luke 8:13**: "**And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.**" Jesus is reminding us here that indeed, we can fall away from the faith. Hard teaching to be sure but a biblical one nonetheless. Check **Romans 11:17-24**.

WITH US IN THE STORM ... TO THE OTHER SIDE

READ LUKE 8:22-25

This is such an important story as it gives us two truths about our Lord: 1) He fulfills His promises. While this is a somewhat veiled truth in this text, I want you to note what Jesus said to the Disciples in verse twenty-two, namely, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." Notice that while the Disciples were panicking, Jesus didn't say "Let's go out and die on the lake!" Nope, He said "Let's go to the other side." How does that play out in our lives? What's "the other side" for us? Talk about that and then consider **2 Corinthians 5:1-10**. But 2), aren't we sometimes similarly manic when Jesus' promise to "be with us always" seems situationally untrue? We know He said He'd be with us, but sometimes He seems to be "sound asleep"...yes? Have you ever felt like the Lord isn't there for you..."asleep on the cushion" so to speak? Talk about that and then look at **Psalms 46:1-7** and make application.

JESUS' LOVE FOR THE SICK AND DYING

READ LUKE 8:40-56

This segment and story is so wonderful and is so for many reasons. To begin with, why does Jesus “call out” the woman who touched His garment? He knew who touched him...so why did He make a big deal about it? What would it have done for the woman? Check the requirement for those who were “ceremonially unclean” found in **Leviticus 15:25-30**. Once you’ve checked the Leviticus passage, flip over to **Zechariah 8:21-23** for an intriguing connection to this story!

Almost lost in the fray is the situation with the little girl, Jairus’ daughter. Why do you think Jesus said she was “sleeping” when it’s obvious from what is written here that she died... Luke tells us “her spirit returned and she got up at once.” What do Jesus words say about how Jesus sees the death of the believer? Once you’ve answered that, check the familiar words of **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** and **John 11:1-16** to see two other “sleep” passages but then also check the words of **Psalm 116:15**. What do you do with the words of **Psalm 116** when Romans tells us “**For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**” **Romans 6:23**.

CHAPTER 9

THE REDEEMER'S AUTHORITY

READ LUKE 9:1-6

If this passage isn't a blow-mind I don't know what is. Jesus gave HIS authority over the spiritual realm, to His Apostles...what?what? Consider what Jesus said in **Matthew 28:16-20** for an identical situation. What does that text say about Christian people and the Church? After thinking about it remember what is said about the Church in **Ephesians 1:22,23**. In the Body of Christ then, we're not just connected to one another...we're also connected to the Lord of the Church, Jesus! He gives us His authority because we are intimately and permanently connected to Him! Once you've discussed that, check a another “authority” passage in **Luke 10:1-12**.

The other “thing” to think about here is connected to authority and found in answering the question “Does Jesus still walk this earth?” What’s the answer to that? Consider again what it means that we are a Temple of the Holy Spirit as found in **1 Corinthians 6:19,20** and what is said about Peter and John in **Acts 4:13**. Consider why this truth is so important when we talk about bringing Jesus to people and people to Jesus.

THE SAVIOR’S HEART

READ LUKE 9:10-17

There is so much going on in this text...so much about Jesus and so much about what He is wanting to teach the people and teach His disciples. Let’s break this familiar story down to those three elements:

- 1) What does this say about Jesus?
- 2) What do Jesus’ actions say to the Disciples?
- 3) What do Jesus’ actions say to the people?

THE SAVIOR’S IDENTITY REVEALED

READ LUKE 9:28-36

The Transfiguration is such an important event in the life of Christ and in the ministry He brought to the Disciples. To begin with, Jesus was showing Himself to be the heart, soul and center of “The Law and the Prophets”. Why would I say that and why is that important? Read **John 5:39** for an answer to that and check what Jesus says in **Luke 24:36-49** about Himself.

Next, this is also a moment when Jesus shows Himself to be God. Why would I say that? Consider the question in the light of **1 John 1:5-10**...and yes, the pun was intended. Consider then what John was told to write in **Revelation 21:22-27**. (Wow, right?)

Finally, this is a moment where Peter, James and John were privileged to get a glimpse into Heaven itself. Why would I say that? Once discussed, look up **1 Corinthians 13:12** and apply it to the Transfiguration.

THE SAVIOR'S WAY

READ LUKE 9:46-48

Whenever I read these accounts, namely, accounts of the Disciples arguing over who is the greatest, I simply cannot believe their having the discussion in the presence of the very Son of God! After all, in the presence of Jesus can anyone claim to be the greatest? Consider the end of Luke and that the Disciples clearly had yet to learn their lesson...**Luke 22:24-30**. What makes this instance of posturing among the Disciples especially heinous? Also, consider what Jesus said in **Mark 10:43-45**.

CHAPTER 10

THE SAVIOR'S SUCCESS

READ LUKE 10:17-20

You'll need to re-read **Luke 10:1-12** to get the context of this segment but you can almost immediately see that the Disciples missed the point of their discipleship. Notice that in **verse seventeen** they say to Jesus "Lord, even the demons are subject TO US in your name!" Seems to me they were, in the moment, taking credit for the subjection of demons. And considering our discussion of **Luke 9:46-48** is why I think that. How do we stay away from pride and remember to honor and glorify only Jesus in all we think, say and do? After discussion, look at Psalm 115:1 and then Paul's confession in **2 Corinthians 12:1-10**. The principle is "Be humble or be humbled" and the Lord is very good at bringing humility our way. Why though? Check **Isaiah 42:5-8**.

THE SAVIOR'S MISSION

READ LUKE 10:25-37

The wonderful truth about the Parable of the Good Samaritan is that it is a story with many layers to it. The truth of it has been taught for many, many years but it is one of those parables that you need to peel back like the layers of an onion. Let's do three things here:

- 1) Who is the parable primarily about? Consider the question and then read **Romans 5:6-10**.
- 2) What then does the parable say to the Jews? Consider the question and then read **Matthew 5:43-48** but do so with a Jewish mindset.
- 3) What does this parable say to us today? How will you be different as a result?

