

Interesting



Interesting Men in the Bible: Luke

Luke is working behind the scenes. This man says he is investigating Jesus. Luke is a doctor and just reports the facts through the eyes of other people surrounding Jesus. This Gospel opens like an action movie. We have angels, epic visitations, and it's two stories weaving into one plot: the life of Jesus. Yet, Luke wants us to know John the Baptist parents. To see the plight of Mary and Joseph. We are given the facts of how the birth of Jesus came to be.

This man is not an apostle. He is a doctor. Paul is his friend and fellow Christian. Luke is an account keeper. He is writing to Theophilus in the Luke Gospel and the book of Acts. The book of Acts is Luke's other account and he is not a church letter writer like Paul. Luke is trying to preserve the story. Several times Luke mentions periods of time and leaders to date the facts he is presenting. Paul mentions that some of his friends (like Luke) are not Jews. Many assume Luke is gentile because of this. Yet, I find that this gospel is speaking to the Jews. There are instances where Luke points out Biblical facts to prove Jesus was the Christ. That seems Jewish in nature.

The first three Gospels are called The Synoptic Gospels. They share stories and events. Luke's account is vastly different than the other two Gospels. Luke shares 41% of his account with the other two. He has a unique perspective that is different than the others. Many of Luke's

Parables center around worth or something hidden or lost. There is a cost in the Kingdom though Luke's account. Like a reporter, Luke is giving us eye witness accounts. We have Shepard's, Zechariah, Simeon, Mary, and a long discord with Pilate. He uses time and people stamps to set the story in history. To keep the facts in order.

Luke's genealogy of Jesus is different than Matthew. Luke ties Jesus back to God. He chose to give us the main Bible kinship to keep the promises of God to Eve and Abraham intact. Luke wants you to know that Jesus fulfills the covenant of God with his people. It's interesting that it's assumed that Matthew is the tax collector named Levi. Why does Mark and Luke call him Levi? My view is that this Gospel is not Apostle centric. They are called the Twelve and the seventy a lot. A handful of times we hear from Peter but this book is heavy on the parables and teaching of Jesus. It reads more like a text book than a story.

Then we have the Book of Acts. Again, everything to Luke is factual and epic. The ascension of Jesus to the descension of the Holy Spirit is big. Of course, this is witnessed by people from all over the region. In Luke is the song of Mary. In Acts we have speeches from Peter, Paul, and Stephan. All of these words re-tell the factual history of Jesus. Notice in Acts that's it's the first coming of the Spirit. The first speech and the first martyr. Paul's conversion and several jail scenes continue the epic nature of Luke's story telling. Acts feels like the book of Luke.

Why did Luke write these two books? I think he was a historian. He seems gentile because many different kinds of people are touched by Jesus. Yet, these two books have a very Jewish flavor. There is a council that decides on integrating Jews and gentiles. Paul is preaching to gentiles in Athens. Paul's information comes off Jewish. Luke's writing is considered upper class Greek. They say that 25% of the New Testament is written by Luke. He explains a lot of

facts and detailed stories to give the reader a vivid idea of what's happening. Luke wanted his readers to see Jesus as he was. Yet, Acts tells the continuation of what Jesus started through Paul's journeys. We can look past Paul and just see Jesus' ministry catching fire all over the region. Luke is telling us how Jesus' ministry happened.

What can we say about the man named Luke? He must have been captured by Christ Jesus. There were many letters circulating about Jesus in those days. For some reason four authors became the staples of the Jesus story. Three of those authors shared writing. Why or how? Some linguists have believed that there is a "Q" writing that the Gospel writers shared from but that is just pure speculation. Luke must have been one of John or Jesus disciples and a doctor. Clearly, he became friends with Paul. This man wanted to preserve the facts and story of Jesus. He went even farther by reporting on the early church. His writing is invaluable to the Christian movement. We owe a massive debt of gratitude to this man for seeing the need to write things down. That is why he is a great man in the Bible.