



Luke

“Loyal Followers”

“And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” Luke 2:12

If I were going to be beaten on a journey whether it was by flogging, being ship wrecked, or put in prison, I would like to have Luke with me. Luke is credited with writing the Gospel of Luke, and Acts of the Apostles. But more important to the well-being of Paul, he was a physician, and Paul needed all the help he could get. Paul refers to him as “Luke the beloved physician.”

In the Gospel of Luke we see a detail and accurate record of his investigation so that we can trust that Jesus is our Lord and Saviour. Luke portrays Jesus’ interest in people and relationships; he is a companion for the poor, the sick, the hurting and the sinful. Luke also gives many accounts about prayer, miracles and angels. Luke also showed compassion for women in his Gospel. Luke was with Paul when they were in Phillippi and Silas and Paul were imprisoned. Mark was not imprisoned, so he continued to preach and teach, especially to a woman name Lydia and the group that met for prayer with her while they were working.

Luke's Gospel gives special emphasis to prayer, miracles and angels as well. Interesting to note, women are given an important place in Luke's writings. Luke is the only writer that tells us about the first birth of Christ and His being put in a manger because there was no room in the inn.

Luke traveled with Paul to Troas, Philippi, Jerusalem, and eventually to Rome. It must have been quite an experience. Luke probably had more formal education than the other apostles or disciples. But, most of all, he wanted to know about Christ and record everything that Paul did as accurately as possible. The authorities also tell us he was very versed in traveling. He was a great help to Paul and Paul to him. Each of the apostles has a different approach to Christ’s ministry. Although some things are repeated by some of the Gospel writers, there is often a different approach. Luke depicts Jesus as the perfect God-Man and traces his genealogy back to Adam. He goes into detail about the birth of Christ and what He did and why He did it more than the other apostles do. The Gospel of Luke tells us about Christ, and the Acts of the Apostles tells us what happened as the Word of God was spread after Christ’s crucifixion. Nowhere else in the Bible does this famous verse or account occur. “And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

Luke was the only Gentile Christian writer of the New Testament. Luke also, perhaps because of his background, shows quite a bit of empathy. Luke tells us how Jesus emphasized the faith of the Gentiles, the faith of a Roman soldier, and also the Good Samaritan who is only mentioned in Luke’s Gospel. Luke is given credit for showing more empathy for women than the other Gospel writers.

Probably one of Luke’s most trying trips was the last one with Paul. Paul had argued with the authorities and the governor wanted him put in prison. The authorities were afraid of what Paul said. Then a new governor came in and allowed Paul to speak. He too was afraid and didn’t want to get involved so he decided that Paul should go to Caesar. This was the beginning of a long voyage to Rome. They were shipwrecked, and encountered terrible weather and had to stop at a place they had not planned. But each time, more people believed Paul. I don’t think these stops were an accident! They even took Paul’s bindings off so that he could do physical work with them that was required for them to continue their voyage to Rome. No one died on the trip and speculation says this was due in part to Paul’s testimony, and in part to Luke’s being a physician.

We often hear that highly educated people have a hard time recognizing the authority of Christ because they can’t accept faith without knowing all the details. Luke is referred to as one of the most educated men in the Bible, yet he gave up what was probably a lucrative business to learn more about Christ and travel with Paul to spread the Good News. Paul took many long journeys and we hear of his being beaten, whipped and even stoned by angry crowds. He probably needed a good doctor, and God provided Luke.

Prayer: Heavenly Father we know that we must have the faith of a small child and not question, yet we do it daily. According to the Gospel of Luke You said if we have the faith of a grain of mustard seed, we could uproot a tree by speaking and plant it in the sea and it would obey.” Help us to have that same faith that Luke had. Amen.

1. Does a job or money sometimes interfere with our being able to put our faith solely in one person, or one thing?
2. Can you compare Luke to others who are never quoted directly but whose quote you have remembered and held in your memory for help?
3. How important in today’s life is the story of the birth of Christ in a manger?

