

The Gospel According to St. Luke

Middle school Ministry



Introduction

The 4 Gospels comparison

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
To whom it was written	Jews	Romans	Greeks	Christians
Subject	The Messiah the king	The Messiah the conqueror of Satan	Christ the lover of mankind	Christ the Incarnate Word
Main message of Jesus	Fulfills the Law	Performs wonders	Saves mankind	Dwells among us
Gospel content	Focuses on prophecies	Focuses on deeds	Focused on history	Focused on theology
Symbol	The human face	The lion	The Ox	The Eagle

Symbols of the Four Gospels

Matthew
Winged Man
Mark
Winged Lion
Luke
Winged Ox
John
Eagle

1- Servant's preparation:

- 1) Explanation of the gospel of St Luke chapters 1-12 and an introduction for Bishop Yousef
<https://www.suscpts.org/diocese/bishop/bible-study/holy-gospel-according-to-st-luke/>
- 2) A link for Fr. Doud Lamei 's bible study in Arabic
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHedjI0_e2nk5yEwV9kLxOBn-oJwCt5OK
- 3) The reference book for Fr. Tadros Malaty → see separate attachment
- 4) Upper room app → Sermons → Bible study → Luke , you will find sermons for each chapter, links provided at the beginning of each lesson below.
- 4) Two illustrative videos that could be used by servants to prepare or to show at the beginning of each unit.
 - Part 1 [chapter 1-9]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIb_dClxzo0
 - Part 2 [10-24]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26z_KhwNdd8

2- Book introduction:



A- Who is St. Luke?

- ❖ The word “Luke” is probably an abbreviation of the Latin word “Lucanus” or “Lucuis”, which means ‘the carrier of the light’ or ‘the enlightened’.
- ❖ He is the only one among the writers for the Testament who was not a Jew, but a Gentile
- ❖ St. Luke was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle and became his companion on his numerous journeys.
- ❖ He met St. Paul on his second missionary journey in Troas and accompanied him to Philippi. Then, he joined him again on his third journey heading to Jerusalem. It appears that he may have stayed in Palestine during the two years’ imprisonment of St. Paul in Caesarea. They also travelled to preach in Rome together (Acts 28:30).
- ❖ He was not one of the disciples, nor one of the apostles.
- ❖ It came by oral tradition that he had painted the first picture of the Virgin Mary.
- ❖ He departed in Bithynia at an old age. Some say that he was martyred during the reign of Nero at age 84.

B- Characteristics:

- ❖ He wrote this Gospel and the Book of Acts to an Alexandrian nobleman named **Theophilus** (Luke 1:3), calling him “most excellent”, which is a special title for one who holds an important position within the Roman Empire. Some say that Theophilus is one of these three:
 1. He might be someone whose name the apostles did not want to mention, instead, calling him Theophilus which means ‘he who loves God’ in order not to reveal his identity and cause him harm.
 2. Or someone who truly bore this name. The apostle wrote him the Gospel of truth (the Gospel of St. Luke) to understand the Church and its mission (the Acts), in order to attract him to the faith rather than resist the Church.
 3. Luke was a doctor and a servant; he may have treated his own master before setting him free. In order to show his gratitude and give the most precious thing he could offer; he wrote him the gospel of our Lord Jesus and the history of the first Church
- ❖ St Luke did not meet Jesus in person but believed later when he met St Paul. In order to record accurate details about the whole story of Jesus, he interviewed eyewitnesses like St Mary and the disciples and may be main characters he wrote about like the Samaritan and Zacchaeus to be able to collect accurate and reliable understanding of all things and document them for all generations in a perfectly historical way.
- ❖ Picture a scientist going about some great work. He or she is searching for the cure for some horrible disease or making some marvelous new discovery. First the scientist digs for facts, looking deeply, studying carefully, investigating every clue, relentlessly hunting for any and every fact that will make the discovery deeper, richer, and more accurate.

- ❖ Similarly, in this study, we are going to look at Jesus through the eyes of those who actually witnessed Him, and then told their story. That is what a witness is: a person who sees or experiences something, then tells others what he or she has seen.

C- The Time for his writing

- There is no sure tradition regarding the time of this writing or its site. St. Irianus thinks it was written before the martyrdom of St. Paul.
- Since the gospel was written before the book of Acts, and the book of Acts was written before the martyrdom of St. Paul the apostle, therefore many believe that it was written between the **year 63 and 67 AD.**

D- Its Aim:

- ❖ ***This Gospel was recorded for the Greeks***, who are known for their own philosophy and literature, which is why it was written in a refined and poetic style.
- ❖ ***He offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child. St. Luke presented Christ to the Gentile world as a Mean to find their inner happiness and joy. He began the Gospel with joy with announcing [the birth of Jesus] and concluded it with joy [Jesus rose from the dead]; something the Greek legends and philosophies lacked.
- ❖ Jesus Christ came as a Friend to support us; praying in many places: (3:21; 6:12; 9:18, 29; 22:39-46), and teaching about praying (Our salvation is not philosophy).



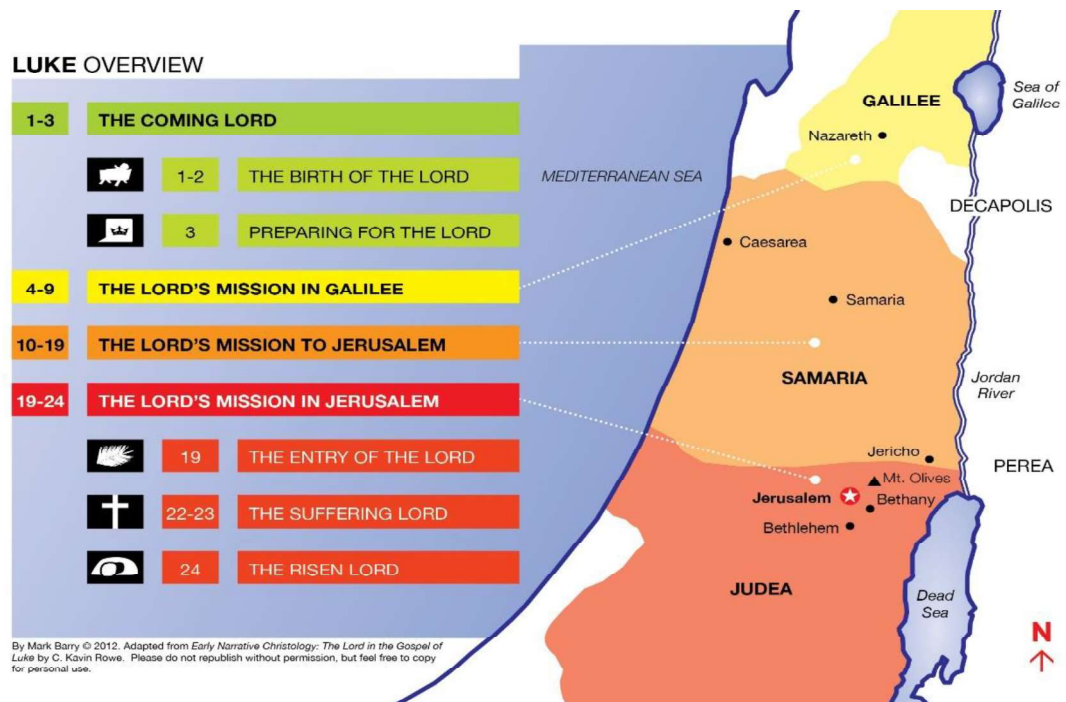
E- Why do we symbolize this gospel as an OX?

The ox associated with the Gospel of Luke fits well since it speaks to the great sacrifice of Jesus, and the ox was an important animal for sacrifice as required in the Torah.

3- Book outline

Its sections:

1. Unit 1: Our Friend became like us and was tempted like us, **chapters 1-4**
2. Unit 2: Our Friend feels our suffering, **chapters 5-18**
3. Unit 3: Our faithful Friend, **chapters 19-23**
4. Unit 4: Our Friend, the Risen from the dead, **chapter 24**



Unit 1: [3 lessons]

Our Friend became like us and was tempted like us chapters 1-4

St Luke presents the Son of God as a Friend, One that we can befriend not fear.

1. Introduction (**Chapter 1** v 1-4).
2. The promise of the Baptist to Zachariah and Elizabeth (v.5-25).
3. Meeting Elizabeth (v.26-38).
4. The birth of John (v.57-80).
5. The birth of Christ (**Chapter 2**)
6. The shepherds meet Him (v.8-20).
7. The circumcision of Jesus (v.21).
8. His entrance to the temple (v.22-40).
9. Jesus challenging the Jewish elders (v.41-52).
10. His baptism (**Chapter 3**) and the genealogy of Christ (v.23-37).
11. Jesus was tempted before beginning His ministry at Galilee (**Chapter 4**)

Chapter 1

Servant's preparation:

A sermon from Upper room app bible study about chapter 1

<https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+nkahjgy>

Brief introduction:

At the beginning of each lesson, please mention this book overview.

- ✓ Who is St. Luke? He was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle later after resurrection.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Greek after collecting testimonies from eyewitnesses to accurately record all details of Jesus's life.
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? ***St Luke offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child.

Main points in the Chapter:

1. An introduction to the book 1-4
2. The good news to Zacharias of John's birth 5-17
3. Zacharias' dumbness 18-25
4. The Annunciation of the Divine Incarnation 26-38
5. Mary's Encounter with Elizabeth 39-45
6. The Virgin's hymn of Praise 46-56
7. John's Birth and the Circumcision 57-66
8. Zacharias the priest's Prophecy 67-80

Lesson overview:

Please go over main events of the chapter briefly as follows

The gospel of St. Luke started with a short introduction that mentioned how, why and to whom was the book written. We explained that in the previous introduction.

John the Baptist's birth: 1-25

- Because St. Luke was a man of science, being a physician, he clearly defined the date of the event of John's birth
- Even though that time, there was corruption and there were no prophecies for 3 centuries, God saw Zacharias and Elizabeth, noticed their righteousness, and honored them to get John the forerunner before the Christ.

- In this conversation that occurred between the archangel Gabriel and Zacharias the priest inside the Altar, we notice that Zacharias did not believe the angel's words, in spite of seeing the angel and listening to the angelic voice in a tangible way which made him blameworthy of it, particularly because the holy history mentions living examples of elderly people who begot children whereas their wives was barren, such as Sarah, Abraham's wife for not having children.
- In (Luke 1: 17) "And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah". The Scholar Oreganus comments on this statement saying, "He did not say in the soul of Elijah, but rather 'in the spirit of Elijah and his power'. The spirit that dwelt in Elijah also dwelt in John, and the power in Elijah was also in John.
- The archangel declared himself that he is Gabriel, he came carrying the divine promise and the good news, but he also had to discipline Zacchaeus with dumbness as God commanded.

The Annunciation of the Divine Incarnation 26-38

- God chose a virgin who is betrothed to a man [engaged but for the Jews, it is like married without physical union]. God's choice was perfect because Jesus had to come from a virgin but if she were seen pregnant without being married, people would stone her thinking she was a sinner.
- The Holy Spirit came on her to sanctify her womb and start her conception, this happened the minute she agreed to accepting the assignment of being the mother of God. Her obedience opposes Eve's disobedience. She was more obedient than Zacchaeus who questioned the angel.

Mary's Encounter with Elizabeth 39-45.

- The virgin St. Mary has now carried in herself He who carries the burdens of the world, and He who provides for everything, she did not worry about what is hers, but rather in the receiving spirit, she hastened to the hills to the city of Judah, so as to serve Elizabeth.

The Virgin's Hymn of Praise 46-56

- When Elizabeth's tongue was released in blessings to the Virgin because she has believed the promises and has carried the Word of God in her womb; likewise did the Virgin's tongue began do praise God.

John's Birth and the Circumcision 57-66

- John's birth became a preaching sermon, though it had begun mysteriously, but the Lord has become a companion to him so as to support him; for God took John to the wilderness while young, and there He took care of him and raised him, so that he appears to Israel at the appropriate due time.

Goal we learn: [Submit to God's will]

In this chapter, we have many points to learn from, but we will focus on St Mary and her submissive response to the angel. **"Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."** Luke 1:38

Chapter 20

Servant's preparation:

A sermon for father Doud Lamei explaining Luke 20

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2L8GP48K3oI&feature=youtu.be>

Brief introduction:

At the beginning of each lesson, please mention this book overview.

- ✓ Who is St. Luke? He was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle later after resurrection.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Greek after collecting testimonies from eyewitnesses to accurately record all details of Jesus's life.
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? ***St Luke offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child.

Remember:

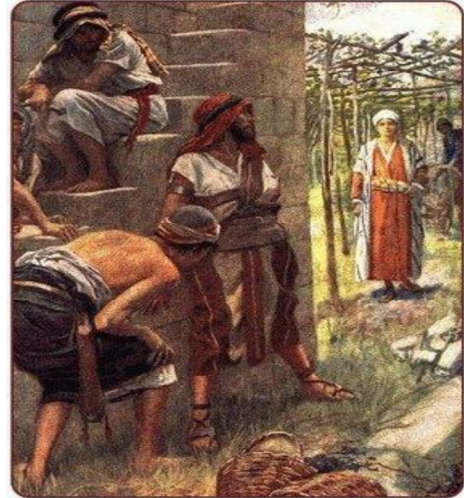
Last lesson we talked about Zacchaeus who was touched by Jesus's love and repented with an active plan to change his life. We also discussed the parable of the Minas and how we are each given certain talents to make so special but we need to find them and use them properly and not think of the talents we are missing and think that God gave everything to others and nothing to you.

Main points in the Chapter 20:

- 1- The Resistance of His Teaching by Denying His Authority 1- 8
- 2- The Resistance of the Vine dresser (The parable of the wicked tenants) 9- 19
- 3- A Question Concerning the Taxes 20- 26
- 4- A Question Concerning the Resurrection 27- 40
- 5- David's Son and his Lord 41- 44
- 6- A Warning against the false Scribes 45- 47

Lesson overview:

Please go over main events of the chapter briefly as follows:



The Resistance of His Teaching by Denying His Authority 1- 8

After Jesus' grand entry into the city, followed by the violent clearing of the Temple merchants, the religious leaders demanded to know by what authority He was acting. After all, they were the authorities in Jerusalem and especially in the Temple. As He had done before with leaders trying to trap Him, Jesus answered their question with a question. He asked them to identify the authority John had been operating under. Verses 5-6 indicates the problem this question placed the religious leaders in. John had been a very popular figure. If they discounted John's heavenly authority, the people would be angry.

On the other hand, if they admitted that John's authority was from heaven, Jesus' next question would be why they hadn't believed him when he identified Jesus as the Messiah. So, they admitted defeat in this round and said, "We don't know" (v. 7).

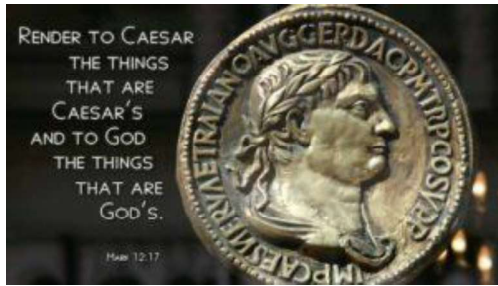
The parable of the wicked tenants 9- 19

The parable that Jesus related next was so obvious that the religious leaders could not help but see what He was saying. In the history of the Jewish nation, God had sent many prophets to call the people to repentance. But the religious leadership had persecuted and even killed those prophets. This was obviously what Jesus was referring to with the landowner, his servants, and the tenants (20:9-12).

The 3 servants who were sent symbolize, the natural law, Mosaic law and the prophets but they were all rejected.

The son referred to in the parable (vv. 13-15) could be no other than Jesus himself, now claiming for all to hear that He is the Son of God. Again, Jesus is all but taunting the Jewish leadership with His claims to be the Messiah.

A Question Concerning the Taxes 20- 26



In the next incident, the Jewish leaders sent agents to Jesus to ask Him yet another trick question (vv. 20-22). Palestine was part of the Roman Empire and was occupied by the Roman army. One of the things that they hated was paying taxes to the Romans. The agents of the Jewish leadership asked Jesus about paying taxes. They thought they had Him in their trap this time. If He said that paying the taxes was alright, the people would be upset. But if He said that the Jews should not pay the taxes, the Romans would arrest Him as a troublemaker. But again, Jesus turned the tables on them by asking them a question: "Whose portrait and inscription are on [the currency]?" (v. 24). They had to concede that the currency bore Caesar's image. In doing so, they were also conceding that they were utilizing the Roman monetary system. Jesus then responded that they should give to Caesar what belonged to him.

A Question Concerning the Resurrection 27- 40

The next group of players in this drama was the Sadducees. This was a party of rich and influential men, frequently at odds with the Pharisees. One of the points of disagreement between these two parties was life after death. The Sadducees did not believe in an afterlife, while the Pharisees did. Their question to Jesus was not a real question, but an attempt to get Him wrapped up in religious trivia. Jesus avoided their plan, however, by doing away with their entire premise. In heaven there will be no marriages, so it didn't matter how many times the woman had been married.

David's Son and his Lord 41- 44

Jesus next puzzled the leaders with a question of His own. How could the Messiah be referred to as the Son of David when David himself referred to the Messiah as his Lord? This was not a meaningless question, like the ones they had been posing to Him. The coming Messiah was often associated with David, the king who ruled Israel during its greatest period.

The common hope was that the Messiah would restore Israel to the power and prominence that it had during David's reign. Here, Jesus was trying to show them that the Messiah would be more than a political leader, that He would establish a spiritual kingdom.

Father Theophlactius: "Indeed, David was the father and the slave concerning Christ, for he is His father according to the body, and His slave in the Spirit."

Goal we learn: [Accept being rejected for your faith]

In this chapter, we notice that the rejection Jesus faced increased to a high pitch as He got closer to the cross. He never promised us that we would be accepted by this world but hated and ridiculed. He had

been through this before us to help us go through it. Let us examine how we can accept this rejection happily and never stop showing how different and special we are [We are the salt of this world]

Lesson delivery idea

1. Let us notice at the beginning of this chapter the demand which the chief priests and scribes made upon our Lord. "Tell us," they said, "by what authority you do these things? And who gave you this authority?"
 2. In the Parable of the wicked tenant, Jesus shows that God's messengers and He himself were rejected and hated by the world all the time
 3. Later the Pharisees would try to trap Him by asking Him about taxes to catch a mistake on Him.
 4. The Sadducees would wish to make Him look incompetent when they ask Him about marriage in the afterlife.
- ❖ The spirit which prompted these questions is too evident to be mistaken. These men hated and envied Christ. They saw His influence increasing. They saw their own power waning. They resolved, if possible, to stop the progress of this new teacher; and the point on which they made their assault was His authority then His look in front of people. They ought to have examined His mighty works. His teaching they ought, in all fairness, to have compared with their own Scriptures. But they refused to take either one course or the other. They preferred to call His authority into question. They tried hard to get people to stop listening to Him, but they failed.
 - ❖ Every true-hearted Christian who tries to do good in the world, must make up his mind to be treated like his Master. He must never be surprised to find that the self-righteous and the worldly-minded dislike His ways. The lawfulness of his proceedings will be constantly called in question. He will be regarded as meddlesome, disorderly, self-conceited, a pestilent fellow, and a troubler of Israel.
 - ❖ Many of us might have experienced that already in school or community. We might feel rejected and ridiculed when we try to follow God's commandments. Some will often meet with enemies, where they ought to find friends.
 - ❖ **Be proud because you are not alone, your master was faced with similar oppositions.**
 - ❖ Let all who are attacked by the world for trying to do good, take comfort in the thought that they are only drinking of the bitter cup which Christ drank. Their Master in Heaven sympathizes with them. Let them work on patiently, and believe that, if they are faithful, their work will speak for itself.
 - ❖ The world's opposition is sure to attend every really good work. If the true Christians are to cease from every movement which the world calls in question — they will soon come to an entire stand-still. If we are to wait until the world approves our plans and is satisfied with the propriety of our efforts — we shall never do anything on earth.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ What is the typical way that you, personally, handle rejection? Why in this way?
- ❖ Have you ever been in a situation where you were made fun of by someone else because of following a Christian law? How did that go?
- ❖ Have you ever felt embarrassed to say you can't eat something because you are fasting, or you can't join your friends because you have to go to church same time?

- ❖ How do you feel about praying before eating when in public or school?
- ❖ Have you been in a situation when your friends thought you are weird for not watching a “tiktok” or listening to a certain song because you think it is inappropriate? What would Jesus do if He were there?
- ❖ How do you maintain a relationship with someone who has rejected your faith?
- ❖ Did it ever occur to you that when you hide your faith to avoid being labeled as different, you might be wasting the only chance to bring those friends to Jesus one day? When they see you, they glorify your father in heaven even if they made fun of your actions at the beginning.
- ❖ In your experience, what lessons have you learned from being rejected for Christ's sake?



Take home Prayer

Please God, give the courage to show my faith in front of others without fear because I know you felt that rejection before me. Let me be proud that I have rules and limits that others lack and that means I am stronger and could say “No” when needed. You went through a lot of opposition when you lived on earth and you are still rejected by millions of people because they cannot see the truth. Let me learn to be different than others even if it costs me much, to be worthily called the child of God.

Memory Verse: ²⁵ And He said to them, “Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”