

Week 22

Luke - Kata Loukan¹ - According to Luke

Luke is the second gospel we have looked at in AP² Luke is unique in many ways.

- If John focused on the divinity of Christ, Luke seems to focus on the humanity. Almost all of Luke's miracles were ones of healing, rather than more overt displays of divine power.
- Luke is the only Gentile author of any book of the Bible, which means he writes from the unique perspective of an outsider. He has a tendency to be the voice of the unheard: take the nativity: Luke writes from the perspective of Mary (Matthew from the perspective of Joseph) and Luke is responsible for ensuring shepherds were included in our nativity scenes. The parable of the Good Samaritan (10), the prodigal (15), the pharisee and the tax collector (18), the story of Zaccheus (19), the thief at the cross (23), and his high regard for women and children.
- We also know he was a physician (Col 4:14), so in his writing we find a certain carefulness and precision (cf. Luke 1:1—5). He is responsible for two books: Luke and Acts. These two books make up 20% on the NT; only Paul (possibly) writes more.
- By word count, Luke is the longest gospel.
- Luke has a love for music: Magnificat of Mary, the Song of Zacharias, and the angels (all in chapter 1 & 2)
- Luke has a super high regard for prayer as Luke has more of it than the other gospels.

If I was asked by someone who felt like an outsider or marginalized, "What one book of the Bible I would recommend for them to learn about Jesus?", I would, without a moment's hesitation, point them to the Gospel of Luke.

Sunday, Mar 20

Luke 1³ - The pregnancy from the perspective of a doctor (human-ish)

For Reflection: *What surprises does this chapter include? Other than Jesus, who is the focus, and what do we know about them?*

Lagniappe: Isaiah 7:14

¹ There is no author identified in the gospel, or any of the other gospels, however by the mid second century Luke is regularly identified as the author (Papyrus 75, Muratorian Canon – both written ~ 175 CE). There is no evidence of another possible author in any of the manuscripts or early church writings – which is compelling since Luke was neither an apostle or Jewish.

² We looked at John in weeks 2/3/4

³ Verses 1-4 are completely unique. John has a prologue but it has a completely different purpose. This is true prologue. Very few books and no other gospels were written to individuals. Luke wanted Theophilus to know the truth. He wants us to know the truth.

- Monday, Mar 21** Luke 4 Humble Beginnings (human-ish)
For Reflection: *When have you experienced the truth of verse 24?*
Lagniappe: Isaiah 61:1-2
- Tuesday, Mar 22** Luke 6 :17-49 - Sermon on the Mount (abridged version)
For Reflection: *What differences do you note between this and Matthew's Sermon on the Mount? What does he repeat? It might just be what Jesus thought was the most important stuff from Matthew 5-7*
- Wednesday, Mar 23** Luke 9:51-62, 13:22-35, 17:11-19, 18:31-34, 19:11,28 & 41⁴- The Long Walk
For Reflection: *How important has perseverance been in your faith life?*
Lagniappe: Isaiah 50:7⁵
- Thursday, Mar 24** Luke 15 – The Lost Parables (human-ish)
For Reflection: *What was your most profound season of being spiritually lost?*
Lagniappe: Ezekiel 34:15-16
- Friday, Mar 25** Luke 22:39 - 23:49 The Price of Love (human-ish)
For Reflection: Only Luke, a doctor, includes this detail about Jesus sweating blood in his Gethsemane prayer. I don't know what to make of it except the obvious – becoming sin for us, while being innocent, was a decision of fundamental stress – possibly taking Jesus right up to the breaking point. *For what or who are you likely to pray with your whole soul?*
Lagniappe: Psalm 22⁶
- Saturday, Mar 26** Luke 24 – The Road to Emmaus
For Reflection: The second part of this chapter is unique to Luke, as is the ascension in verse 51. *Where is your road to Emmaus? Where did/does Jesus find you? Does the mission (to be witnesses) and the promise extend to you? (48-49)*

⁴ I chose these passages, because this whole section, chapters 9 - 19, is condensed to a half a chapter in Mark (10). Much of this section is unique to Luke. It reminds us of Jesus resolve to fulfill his mission. It also helps us understand these passages, even though we are only in chapter 9 in Luke we are within months of his death. The wideness of God's mercy and the demands of following Christ are the warp and woof of this section.

⁵ There are 4 Servant Songs in Isaiah that many/most believers in Jesus see as Messianic. So, it's likely this song points to Jesus (hundreds of years early), and verse 7 is the epitome of our passages today.

⁶ This is another messianic passage (like the Servant Songs), but this one is not centuries early, but a Millenia early. I know it's a lot of reading, but it's Lent, all this happened in this season. This is your Lord, there is none like him.

Lagniappe: Acts 1:8⁷

⁷ The vast majority of Christians believe Acts was the other book written by Luke – the gentile missionary doctor. Just one reason is both Luke and Acts were written to Theophilus (compare Acts 1:1 and Luke 1:3).