Good Tidings of Great Joy
Studies in the Gospel of Luke

A Child Called John
Luke 1:39-80
Lesson 2

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
January 11, 2015
The Life of Christ

Showing coverage by Luke (shaded)

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**Popularity (Declining)**

**Obscurity (Vanishing)**

Opening Events

- John introduces Jesus (John 1:19ff.)
- Jesus Cleanses Temple (Mark 1:14)
- Jesus Returns to Galilee (Luke 6:12ff.)
- Jesus Ordains Twelve (Matthew 15:21)
- Jesus ordains Twelve (John 5:1)
- To Tyre and Sidon (John 11:55)
- To Feast of Tabernacles (John 10:40)
- Beyond Jordan (Matthew 21:1)

**Concluding Ministries**

- Matthew 15:21
- John 7:10
- John 10:22-39
- John 11:55
- John 13:22

Created by Irving L. Jensen, ThD.
Gospel of Luke – Outline

1. Prologue (1:1-4)
2. The Preparation for Jesus’ Ministry (1:5-4:13)
3. The Ministry in Galilee (4:14-9:50)
4. The Judean/Perean Ministry (9:51-19:27)
5. The Ministry in Jerusalem (19:28-21:38)
Most Excellent Theophilus (1:1-4)

- An account of the Gospel message
- The exact truth from eyewitnesses
- Carefully investigated
Historical Setting

- Days of Herod the King – Edomite on the throne
- Zacharias and Elizabeth – Righteous in the sight of God
- Elizabeth “called barren”
- The silence of God
Gabriel announces the birth of John

- A spiritual renewal ministry (1:15-17)
- A skeptical father (1:18)
- Gabriel: God’s Word is sufficient (1:19)
- Zacharias’ silence (1:20)
Gabriel announces the birth of Jesus

- A virgin in the obscurity of Nazareth
- Son of the Most High; son of David
- “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”
- Gabriel’s answer:
  - The work of the Holy Spirit
  - The “sign” of Elizabeth
  - “Nothing will be impossible with God”
The Birth of John (1:39-80)

- Mary visits Elizabeth (1:39-45) – A lesson on faith
- Mary’s song (1:46-56) – A song of salvation
- John’s birth (1:57-66) – A great mercy
- Zacharias’ prophecy/song (1:67-80) – His Holy Covenant
Mary Visits Elizabeth (1:39-45)

- Mary in a hurry to see Elizabeth
- Baby leaped in her womb – v. 44 “for joy”
- Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit
- Blessed is Mary and blessed is Mary’s Child
- Mary’s Child is “my Lord”
Blessing

- charis – grace, favor
- eulogeo – to speak well of or praise; to cause to prosper or to make happy
- makarios – to pronounce happy or blessed
- God blesses – material and spiritual
- Men bless God – praise
- Ephesians 1:3 – Blessed be God – Who has blessed us – every spiritual blessing
- Mary is blessed (1:42, 45, 48)
Mary’s Blessing (1:45)

- Luke 1:28, 30 – favored (charis) + Lord is with you
- Luke 1:45, 48 – What is Mary’s blessing?
- Luke 11:27-28 – more blessed than Mary
- John 20:29 – blessed to believe without seeing
- Galatians 3:6-9 – Abraham by faith
- Mary was blessed because she believed God’s Word
- Mary sings of God’s blessing
Mary’s Song (1:46-56)

- Mary blesses the Lord, God my Savior
- Soul and spirit (Psalm 103:1)
- Divine “regard for” a slave (1:38)
- All generations will count me blessed
- The Mighty One has done great things for me
Great Things

- The Mighty One – great power
- The Holy One – unapproachable
- The Merciful One – Psalm 103:17

- Mighty deeds with His arm
  - Scatter the proud; bring down rulers
  - Exalt the humble; fill the hungry
  - Send away the rich empty handed

- Proverbs 10:22 – the blessing of the LORD makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it

Help to Israel (1:54-55)

- A national view of salvation for Israel
- He remembers
- His promise to Abraham and the fathers
  - Work of salvation is for the humble servant
  - Work of salvation is for the Nation Israel
  - Work of salvation is for God’s creation (Rom. 8:20-22)
- Mary exalts the Savior of the world
Birth of John (1:57-66)

- Mercy – to the “barren” one
- Zacharias’ obedience
- Praise – bless God
- Fear and wonder – “What will this child turn out to be?”
Zacharias’ Prophecy (Song) (1:67-80)

- Outline: Two long sentences
  - Proclamation (1:68-75)
  - Prediction (1:76-79)
- Chiastic structure
Zacharias’ Prophecy

A - Visit (v. 68a)
   B - Salvation for His people (v. 68b-69)
      C - Prophet(s) (v. 70)
         D - Enemies” (v. 71)
      E - Covenant and oath with the fathers (v. 72-73)
         D’ - Enemies (v. 74-75)
            C’ - Prophet (v. 76)
      B’ - Salvation for His people (v. 77)
A’ - Visit (v. 78-79)
Zacharias’ Prophecy

- God fulfilling His Holy Covenant (1:68,72,78)
- A visitation
- The work of salvation for His people
- Prophetic ministry
- Enemies
The Gospel in the Old Testament

- Blessing by faith in the fulfillment of God’s Promise
- Deliverance from sin and enemies of God
- Christ the Savior and King (house of David)
- The way of holiness, righteousness and peace
- The Eternal Kingdom of God
- The same Gospel for all time