

Good Tidings of Great Joy

Studies in the Gospel of Luke

Preparation for Ministry

Luke 3:1-4:13
Lesson 4

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
January 25, 2015

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)
6. The Consummation of His Work (22:1-24:53)

Prologue (1:1-4)

- ▶ An accurate eyewitness account of Jesus' word and work
- ▶ The exact truth of the Gospel

Preparation for Jesus' Ministry

- ▶ Continuity with O.T. Scripture
 - The Abrahamic Promise
 - The eternal Kingdom – the throne of David
 - Personal salvation
 - The salvation of Israel (1:16-17, 55, 68-79)
 - The salvation of Gentiles (2:30-32)
- ▶ A revelation of God
 - His sovereign power – nothing impossible (1:37, 51)
 - His glory (2:14)
 - His holiness (1:35, 49, 70, 72)
 - His mercy (N.T. translation of HESED)

Preparation for Jesus' Ministry

► Salvation

- Forgiveness of sins (2:77)
- Blessing by faith (1:45)
- Salvation by the Lord (1:47, 69, 78-79)
- A life of serving the LORD in holiness and righteousness (1:74-75)

Key events:

- ▶ Gabriel's message to Zacharias – spiritual restoration of Israel
- ▶ Gabriel's message to Mary – the Incarnation
- ▶ Elizabeth's witness – the Incarnation confirmed to Mary
- ▶ Mary's witness – God fulfilling His mercy to Abraham
- ▶ Zacharias' witness – Oath to Abraham fulfilled
- ▶ Birth of Jesus – Glory to God and peace to man
- ▶ Witness of Simeon – Christ the suffering Savior of the world
- ▶ Witness of Anna – the redemption of Israel
- ▶ Jesus in the Temple – about His Father's business

Preparation for *Ministry* (3:1-4:13)

- ▶ The ministry of John (3:1-20)
- ▶ The presentation of Jesus at His baptism (3:21-22)
- ▶ The genealogy of Jesus (3:23-38)
- ▶ The temptation of Jesus (4:1-13)

The Ministry of John (3:1-20)

- ▶ Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate (Judea), Herod (Galilee/Perea), Philip (Iturea/Trachonitis), Lysanias (Abilene), Annas, Caiaphas
- ▶ 15th year of reign of Tiberius Caesar; age 30 for Jesus (3:23)
 - A.D. 26 or 28-29
- ▶ Job 9:24 – “The earth is given into the hand of the wicked; He covers the face of its judges. If *it is* not *He*, then who is it?”

The Ministry of John (3:1-20)

- ▶ The Word of God came to John
- ▶ The message of John – the Gospel (3:18)
 - Preaching baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins
- ▶ Isa 40:3
 - A voice . . . prepare for the revelation of God for all flesh to see
 - salvation = the glory of God (John 12:23)
 - It is a personal salvation – “Flee from the wrath to come.”
 - It is not biologic – no advantage for seed of Abraham
- ▶ A call to righteousness (3:10-14)

The Baptism of John

- ▶ Repentance (13:3) – flee the wrath to come
- ▶ Baptism – follows repentance – signifies purification
- ▶ Righteousness – purity of life (3:8-14)

Introduction of Jesus (3:15-20)

- ▶ Mightier and more worthy
- ▶ A different baptism – Holy Spirit and fire
- ▶ The Judge of the “wrath to come”

A Surprise Ending (1:19-20)

- ▶ Temporary ministry – until Christ
- ▶ A foreshadowing of Christ's death
- ▶ The cause – John's message – the Gospel

The Baptism of Jesus (3:21-22)

- ▶ Baptism of repentance for forgiveness of sins not needed
- ▶ Baptism is a picture, not an effective action
 - Jesus became human flesh to put away sin
 - Matthew 3:15 – “fitting to fulfill all righteousness”
- ▶ Holy Spirit came on Him
- ▶ Father spoke from heaven – “Beloved Son . . . well-pleased.”

Three Baptisms

- ▶ Order of salvation: repent – conversion – life
- ▶ John's baptism of repentance:
 - Repent – Baptism (washing) – Bear fruit
 - Picture without power – no change in the Jews
- ▶ Christ's baptism – no personal need
 - Present – Baptism (washing) – Holy Spirit and Father
 - Pictured His Work as Representative
- ▶ Believer baptism
 - Repent (regeneration) – Baptism (in Christ) – New life
 - Romans 6:1-7 – Pictures the work of salvation in us

The Genealogy of Jesus (3:23-38)

- ▶ Son of Eli (Mary's father) – supposed to be the son of Joseph
- ▶ David's son through Nathan (v. 31)
- ▶ Shealtiel and his son Zerubbabel (v. 27)
- ▶ Cainan (v. 36) – in Septuagint but not Hebrew Bible
- ▶ Son of Adam (v. 38)
- ▶ Son of God (v. 38)

The Temptation of Jesus (4:1-13)

An ongoing spiritual warfare

- ▶ Genesis 3:15 – Enmity between Satan and Christ since the fall
 - John 8:44 – Devil is a liar and a murderer from the beginning
 - Luke 22:31 – desires to sift – undermine faith
- ▶ 1 John 3:8 – Jesus came to destroy his works
- ▶ 1 Peter 5:8 – Devil is seeking to destroy

Three Temptations – Patterns

- ▶ How was it a temptation?
- ▶ Why was Satan's temptation wrong?
- ▶ How is this a temptation for us?

Temptation #1 (4:1-4)

- ▶ 40 days now over and He was hungry
- ▶ Must not obey Satan
- ▶ Prove you are the Son of God by making stones into bread
- ▶ Philippians 2:5-8 – “emptied Himself . . . no reputation . . .”
- ▶ He must not re-assume Divine power to relieve suffering
- ▶ Not live by bread alone – live by submission to the Lord God
- ▶ John 20:30-31
- ▶ Where He leads, He supplies what is necessary

By proclaiming it in this particular instance, Jesus declares that, in His career, no physical necessity shall ever compel Him to deny, in the name of His exalted Sonship, the humble mode of existence He adopted in making Himself man, until it shall please God Himself to transform His condition by rendering it suitable to His essence as Son of God. Although Son, He will nevertheless remain subject, subject unto the weakness even of death (Heb. 5:8)

FRÉDÉRIC LOUIS GODET (1881)



How is this a temptation for us?

- ▶ A temptation to distrust God's wisdom and goodness
- ▶ Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time (1 Peter 5:6)
- ▶ Deal with trials as a test of our faith. (1 Peter 4:19)
- ▶ Trials are not an opportunity to show ourselves to be great but to trust God.

Temptation #2 (4:5-8)

- ▶ Receive the Kingdom by worshiping Satan
- ▶ Reveals the depth of Christ's humiliation (Luke 12:50; 22:39-46)
- ▶ Bypass redemption
- ▶ A Garden sin: Disobey God and "you shall be as gods."
- ▶ Deuteronomy 6:13 – Worship and serve only the LORD God
- ▶ Context: love God with all heart, soul, might

How is this a temptation for us?

- ▶ The temptation to set our affections on lesser things
- ▶ Worship God only – serve God only
- ▶ Proverbs 16:25 – A way that seems right to a man – but is the way of death
- ▶ Deuteronomy 6:5 – Love for God – full heart, soul, might
- ▶ Love God means to love His ways

Temptation #3 (4:9-12)

- ▶ Cast Yourself off of the pinnacle of the temple
- ▶ Prove You are the Son of God by forcing God to act publicly
 - A dramatic display of His Deity.
 - A challenge to the ways of God
- ▶ Must not tempt God (Ex. 17:1-7)
 - Is the LORD among us or not)
 - Isaiah 40:29-31 – those who wait upon the LORD . . .

How is this a temptation for us?

- ▶ Demand/command the action of God by our understanding
- ▶ Testing God is the reverse of trusting God
- ▶ “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.” Job 13:15

Preparation for *Ministry*

- ▶ A work of holiness
 - Turn from sin
 - Purification
 - Live in holiness
- ▶ A work that requires Christ, the Son of Adam and Son of God
- ▶ A work that is opposed by Satan
- ▶ A work that requires humility, adoration of God, trust in God