

# **Good Tidings of Great Joy**

*Studies in the Gospel of Luke*

## **Who is This One?**

**Luke 7**  
**Lesson 8**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*  
*February 22, 2015*

# Gospel of Luke – Outline

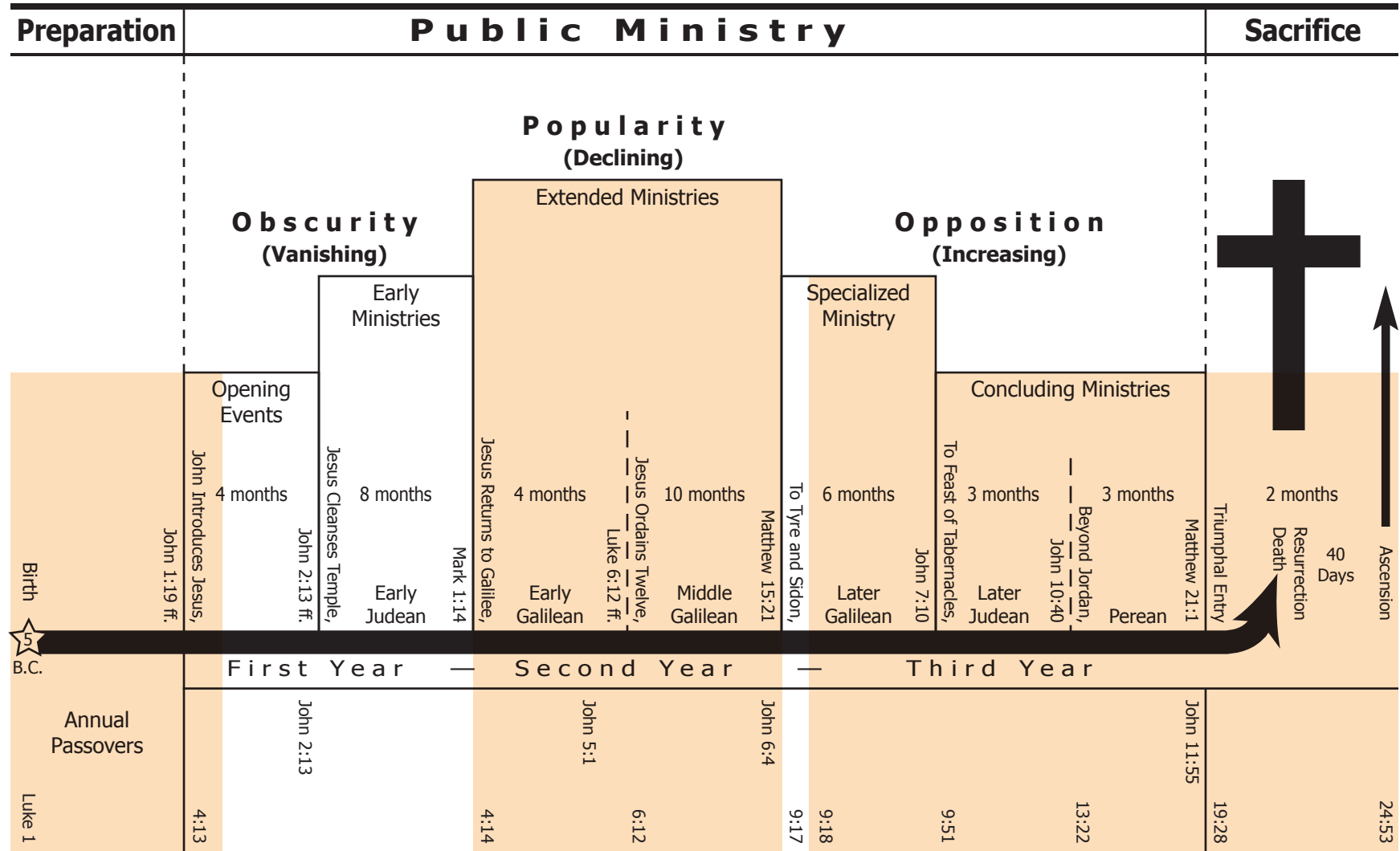
1. Prologue (1:1-4)
2. The Preparation for Jesus' Ministry (1:5-4:13)
3. The Ministry in Galilee (4:14-9:50)
4. The Judean/Perean Ministry (9:51-19:27)
5. The Ministry in Jerusalem (19:28-21:38)
6. The Consummation of His Work (22:1-24:53)

# Luke's Plan (1:1-4)

- ▶ Arrange the facts of the life of Christ to show the basis for the Gospel message
- ▶ Selective
  - More details of Jesus birth
  - 1 year gap between Luke 4:13 and 14.
  - Out of chronological order (Nazareth: Matt 13:53-58; Mark 6:1-6; Luke 4:16-30)
- ▶ Jesus Christ, Son of God, Son of man; Messiah, Savior and future King on David's throne

# The Life of Christ

Showing coverage by Luke (shaded)



# Galilean Ministry – Person of Christ

- ▶ Confusion at Nazareth (4:16-22)
- ▶ Revelation at the transfiguration (9:35)
- ▶ Luke 7 – John’s question: “Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?”

# Context for John's Question

- ▶ Sermon on the Mount – 2 kinds of people
  - Good and bad trees with good and bad fruit (6:43-44)
  - Good and evil hearts with good and evil speech (6:45)
  - Those who receive Jesus as Lord and obey, and those who do not (6:46-49)
- ▶ Luke 7 – two miracles and a dinner (2 people noted)
  - 2 responses to Jesus' power – faith, or not
  - 2 responses to Jesus at dinner – love, or not

# Faith in the Galilean Ministry

- ▶ Unbelief at Nazareth with intent to kill
- ▶ The faith of the paralytic man and his friends (5:20)
- ▶ The faith of the centurion, John, the woman at Simon's house
- ▶ The lack of faith in the disciples: "Where is your faith?" (8:25)
- ▶ The "unbelieving generation" (9:41)
- ▶ Two kinds of people are distinguished by faith, or lack of faith

# Luke 7 - Outline

- ▶ 2 miracles (7:1-17) – healing and resurrection
  - Centurion's servant (in Capernaum)
  - Widow's son (in Nain)
- ▶ John's question with two answers (7:18-35) - Who is this One?
  - "Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."
  - "Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children."
- ▶ 2 receptions at a dinner party (7:36-50)
  - Simon's "little love."
  - The woman's "much love."



# The Centurion's Great Faith (7:1-10)

- ▶ A worthy man deserves a miracle!
- ▶ His object of faith was Jesus Christ
- ▶ His faith did not look at himself
- ▶ His faith was in the character of Jesus Christ
- ▶ His faith was in the deity of Jesus Christ
- ▶ How did he get such great faith?

# Raising the Widow's Son (7:11-17)

- ▶ “Coincidental” encounter
- ▶ Christ's compassion
- ▶ Resurrection – “gave him back to his mother”
- ▶ The response:
  - Fear
  - Glory to God
  - A great prophet
  - God has visited His people
  - The report went out concerning Him
- ▶ Jesus Christ not limited by lack of true faith

# John's Question Answered (7:18-23)

- ▶ John in prison (Matthew 11:2-3 and Luke 3:19-20)
- ▶ “Are you the Expected One, or do we look for another?”
  - John believed the Promise – wondered if they needed to look for another
  - John knew the work of Christ (3:16-17; John 1:29)
  - John did not know the “way of God” – i.e. 2 comings
- ▶ Jesus' answer – evidence in light of the Word (Isaiah 35:5; 61:1)
- ▶ “Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me.” (7:23)
  - The way of God in Christ
  - The way of Christ in salvation
- ▶ A call for faith – trust in Christ, as He presents Himself

# Jesus speaks to the people (7:24-30)

- ▶ Who was John?
  - Not a reed shaken by the wind (e.g. Eph 4:14)
  - Not splendidly clothed – the luxuries of the world
  - A prophet of God
  - More than a prophet – Malachi 3:1 “My messenger . . .”
- ▶ A great man among those born of woman
- ▶ Least in the Kingdom is greater than John
- ▶ A call for faith in the One Who baptizes with fire and Holy Spirit

# Men of that Generation (7:31-35)

- ▶ Childish v. child-like
- ▶ Children at play have no seriousness or sense of reality
- ▶ A childish generation
  - John criticized for refraining from food and wine – “a demon”
  - Jesus criticized for eating and drinking – “a glutton and drunkard”
  - No seriousness – no wisdom (Jer 8:9 – What wisdom is in them?)
- ▶ “Wisdom is vindicated by all her children”
  - Faith comes from the wisdom of God in the Word of God

# Two at Dinner (7:36-50)

## ▶ Simon's "little love"

- Simon, the Pharisee – identified initially by his class – self righteous
- A lesson from Jesus: A parable of two debtors forgiven
- No faith in Christ – Simon rebuked for his lack of love for Jesus

## ▶ The woman's "much love"

- A public sinner
- A living parable – a great debtor forgiven
- The distinguishing feature: Faith in Christ

## ▶ True faith is saving faith

# Who is this One?

- ▶ The answer depends on whether you view Him by faith, or not!
- ▶ The Expected One has come
  - God in the flesh – Divine authority
  - God concealed in human flesh
  - God revealed through the Word
  - The Savior from sin and the curse
- ▶ The Expected One received by faith
  - Despised and rejected of men
  - He is God – Creator, Omnipotent
  - He is wise
  - He forgives sins
- ▶ True faith
  - Does not take offense at Christ
  - Is grounded in the wisdom of God