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/Perea Ministry (9:51-19:27)
5. The Ministry in Jerusalem (19:28-21:38)
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
- 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparation</th>
<th>Public Ministry</th>
<th>Sacrifice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>4 months</td>
<td>2 months</td>
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<td>Annual Passovers</td>
<td>8 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luke 1</td>
<td>4 months</td>
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<td>John 1:19ff.</td>
<td>10 months</td>
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<td>John 2:13ff.</td>
<td>6 months</td>
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<td>John 5:1</td>
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<td>John 6:4</td>
<td>6 months</td>
<td>40 Days</td>
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<td>John 11:55</td>
<td>40 Days</td>
<td>Ascension</td>
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<td>John 19:28</td>
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<td>John 24:53</td>
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Created by Irving L. Jensen, ThD.
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)

- “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