

Luke

Bible Study Monday 15th June

Following our study of Peter & Paul I thought we would look at the third big character in 'Acts' namely the author, Luke!

I think that for Doctor Luke the words "heal" and "save" are interchangeable. Try putting "heal" in to Lk.3.4-6 and that might be the doctor's view of a broken world. Although all the gospels quote Isaiah Luke is the only one to complete the prophecy "all mankind will see"

As his introductions say, Luke is recording a series of events, but these two books (Luke & Acts) are not history books, they are more like a record of certain Old Testament prophecies fulfilled.

He obviously agrees with Peter that, in Jesus, God has a plan; Read Acts.2.22-25; and also he agrees with the early believers in Jerusalem that God has the power to complete that plan; Read Acts.4.23-30.

He was a faithful companion to Paul, joining just before the start of Paul's European mission; Read Acts.16.6-10 where 'they' suddenly becomes 'we'! and he loves stories of how kind God is to the unfortunate. Don't forget to insert 'heal' or 'save' as you read Acts.3.1-10; 9.32-43; 14.8-10; 16.11-15; 20.7-12; 28.7-10.

So now, let us look at his gospel. Very roughly we have four sections.

First, the birth of Jesus Chaps. 1-3

Second, the actions of Jesus Chaps. 4-9, if you have a bible with paragraph headings then just flick through reading only the headings.

Third, the teachings of Jesus Chaps. 10-19, again just flick through and feel the difference in the paragraph headings.

Fourth, Jesus in Jerusalem Chaps. 20-24

In one evening we can't go through all of Luke but we can see what Luke has in his gospel that Matthew and Mark have left out. That might give us a clue of the sort of person Luke was.

Do you remember that chart I had with big blocks of yellow for the bits only Luke recorded? Scholars have poured over those yellow bits and decided that 'Doctor Luke, our dear physician' had a heart for the poor, the pure and the prayerful. That is so lovely, three "p's", easy to remember.

Here are some of the bits that are peculiar to Luke. They illustrate his love for poor, pure, prayerful people. Some are real, some imaginary but for Luke and Jesus they are what the kingdom is all about. Don't forget to substitute "heal" or "save" as you read.

Mary and Elizabeth 1.26-56

Prodigal Son 15.11-32

Anna 2.36-38

Rich Man/Poor Man 16.19-31

The Shepherds 2.8-20

Ten Lepers 17.11-19

Widow of Nain 7.11-17

Widow and Judge 18.1-8

An Anointing 7.36-50

Pharisee and Tax Collector 18.9-14

Female Disciples 8.1-3

Zacchaeus 19.1-10

Good Samaritan 10.25-37

Repentant Thief 23.39-43

Crippled Woman 13.10-17

Supper with Cleopas 24.13-35

Sorry it has been such a long study, but he did write more of the New Testament than anyone else!!!