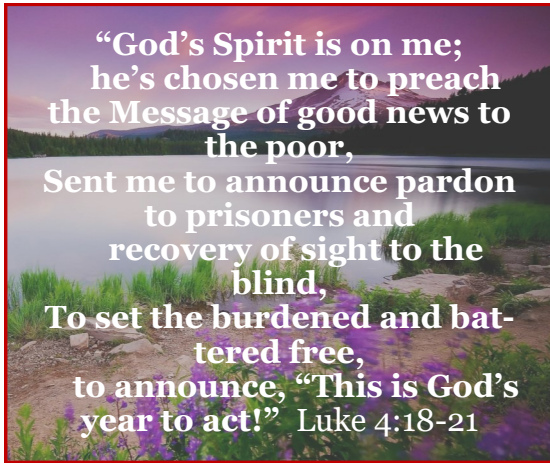


Luke

“Loyal Followers”



If I were going to be beaten on a journey whether it was by flogging, being ship wrecked, or put in prison, I would like to have Luke with me. Luke is credited with writing the Gospel of Luke, and Acts of the Apostles. But more important to the well-being of Paul, he was a physician, and Paul needed all the help he could get. Paul refers to him as “*Luke the beloved physician.*”

Through the writing of Luke we see that he paid much attention to detail and was a man of compassion.

In the Gospel of Luke we see a detail and accurate record of his investigation so that we can trust that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Luke portrays Jesus’ interest in people and relationships; he is a companion for the poor, the sick, the hurting and the sinful. Luke also gives many accounts about

prayer, miracles and angels. Luke showed compassion for women in his Gospel. Luke was with Paul when they were in Philippi and Silas and Paul were imprisoned. Mark was not imprisoned, so he continued to preach and teach, especially to a woman named Lydia and the group that met for prayer with her while they were working.

Luke's Gospel gives special emphasis to prayer, miracles and angels as well. Interesting to note, women are given an important place in Luke's writings. Luke is the only writer that tells us about the birth of Christ and His being



put in a manger because there was no room in the inn.

Luke traveled with Paul to Troas, Philippi, Jerusalem, and eventually to Rome. It must have been quite an experience. Luke probably had more formal education than the other apostles or disciples. But, most of all, he wanted to know about Christ and record everything that Paul did as accurately as

possible. The authorities also tell us he was very versed in traveling. He was a great help to Paul and Paul to him.

Each of the apostles has a different approach to Christ’s ministry. Although some things are repeated by some of the Gospel writers, there is often a different approach. Luke depicts Jesus as the perfect God-Man and traces his genealogy back to Adam. He goes into detail about the birth of Christ and what He did and why He did it more than the other apostles do.

The Gospel of Luke tells us about Christ, and the Acts of the Apostles tells us what happened as the Word of God was spread after Christ’s crucifixion. Nowhere else in the Bible does this famous

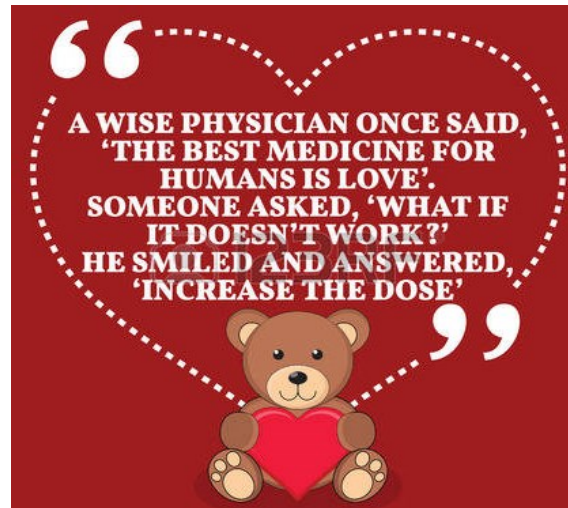
verse or account occur. “*And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*”



Luke was the only Gentile Christian writer of the New Testament. Luke also, perhaps because of his background, shows quite a bit of empathy.

Luke tells us how Jesus emphasized the faith of the Gentiles, the faith of a Roman soldier, and also the Good Samaritan who is only mentioned in Luke's Gospel. Luke is given credit for showing more empathy for women than the other Gospel writers.

Probably one of Luke's most trying trips was the last one with Paul. Paul had argued with the authorities and the governor wanted him put in prison. The authorities were afraid of what Paul said. Then a new governor came in and allowed Paul to speak. He too was afraid and didn't want to get involved so he decided that Paul should go to Caesar. This was the beginning of a long voyage to Rome. They were shipwrecked, and encountered terrible



weather and had to stop at a place they had not planned. A careful reading of the account indicates that Luke practiced medicine during their stay there for Paul and many others.

I don't think these stops were an accident! They even took Paul's bindings off so that he could do physical work with them that was required for them to continue their voyage to Rome. No one died on the trip and speculation says this was due in part to Paul's testimony, and in part to Luke's being a physician.

We often hear that highly educated people have a hard time recognizing the authority of Christ because they can't accept faith without knowing all the details. Luke is referred to as one of the most educated men in the Bible, yet he gave up what was probably a lucrative business to learn more about Christ and travel with Paul to spread the Good News. Paul took many long journeys and we hear of his being beaten, whipped and even stoned by angry crowds. He probably needed a good doctor, and God provided Luke.

We also need a Luke in our lives and we need to be a Luke to others. There are many sicknesses and we all seem to have one or another of them. Matthew records the answer of Christ about sickness (sin) when the Pharisees saw him doing something they thought was wrong. It wasn't a physical illness. *"When the Pharisees saw this they asked His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.'" Matthew 9:11-12.*

Prayer: Heavenly Father we know that we must have the faith of a small child and not question, yet we do it daily. According to the Gospel of Luke You said if we have the faith of a grain of mustard seed, we could uproot a tree by speaking and plant it in the sea and it would obey." Help us to have that same faith that Luke had. Amen.

1. Does a job or money sometimes interfere with our being able to put our faith solely in one person, or one thing?
2. Can you compare Luke to others who are never quoted directly but who's quote you have remembered and held in your memory for help?
3. How important in today's life is the story of the birth of Christ in a manger?

