

The Book of Luke

6

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God’s Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

Today we begin reading the book of **Luke**, starting with **chapters 1-8**. This book was written, tradition tells us, by Luke, the companion of Paul (**Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24**). He addresses both **Luke** and **Acts** to a person called Theophilus (which means “lover of God”), and refers to his previous writing in **Acts 1:1**, and so these two books should be viewed as two volumes of the same work. It is interesting to note that each book fitted neatly on a single scroll, with little to spare. This means that if modern book-binding technology had been available in Luke’s day, he may well have combined his two books into one volume, detailing the ministry of Jesus both before and after his ascension. If this had been the case, **Acts chapter 1** would today be called **Luke chapter 25**.

Luke is a sophisticated account of the life of Jesus, and bears the marks of an author with a high standard of Greek literacy. Yet, like the rest of the books of the New Testament, it is written in *koine* Greek – the common Greek of the Hellenized world – not the classical prose of ancient Greek literature. This is because **Luke** was intended to be read by the common person, not the scholar. It is not fiction, nor myth, but a carefully crafted account of real-life people and real-life events.

Chapters 1-8 can be divided into seven sections:

- ☞ **1:1-4** – Luke’s preface
- ☞ **1:5-80** – The birth of John the Baptist and the announcement of Jesus’ birth
- ☞ **2:1-52** – The birth and childhood of Jesus
- ☞ **3:1-22** – The ministry of John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus
- ☞ **3:23-38** – The genealogy of Jesus
- ☞ **4:1-13** – The temptations of Jesus
- ☞ **4:14-8:56** – Jesus’ early ministry in and around Galilee

So let’s find a comfortable chair and read through the first section of Luke’s Gospel account – **chapters 1-8**.

Memory Verse

...for 'Everyone who calls on the name
of the Lord will be saved.

Romans 10:13

Your Fishing Kit

This is the thirtieth verse in your fishing kit. This verse follows on from your previous memory verse – **Romans 10:9** – by giving a rock-solid promise for “everyone” who calls on the name of the Lord. What does it mean to “call on the name of the Lord”? **Romans 10:9** tells us that calling on the name of the Lord involves 1) confessing with your mouth and 2) believing in your heart. The result? As promised by God, you are saved!

Here are the other verses in your “fishing kit”:

John 3:16	Isaiah 55:6-7	John 1:12	2 Corinthians 5:17
John 3:18	Romans 5:8	John 3:3	2 Corinthians 5:21
John 3:36	1 John 4:10	John 5:24	Matthew 10:32-33
Ephesians 1:7-8	Acts 2:38	John 6:37	Romans 2:4-5
Romans 3:23	Acts 3:19	John 8:32	Acts 17:30
Romans 6:23	Acts 4:12	John 8:36	1 John 5:10
Isaiah 53:5	John 14:6	John 10:10	1 John 5:11-12
Isaiah 53:6	1 John 1:8	John 10:28	John 14:1-3
Isaiah 59:1-2	1 John 1:9	Romans 10:9	John 16:33
Isaiah 64:6	1 John 1:10	Romans 10:13	Revelation 3:20

Store these verses in your heart. Memorize them until they have an “on the tip of your tongue” familiarity. You will find them of immeasurable value as you cooperate with the Lord in his mission of bringing the Gospel to this lost world.