

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: Before We Start

Passage: Luke 1:1-4

Illustration:

Need: When it comes to telling the story of Jesus, great care and attention to detail are paramount!

I. What's up with the Gospel of Luke?

- The writer of this gospel is the same as the writer of Acts. (27% of the NT verses, more than Paul)
- Not an eyewitness to most of his gospel but was an eyewitness to some of the events in Acts.
- Early church tradition (100s AD) consistently names Luke as the author.
- Luke was a ministry companion of Paul from his second missionary journey and beyond (Acts 16).
- Paul references Luke as "the beloved physician" in his letter to the Colossians (4:14).
- Luke's gospel is one of the three "synoptic gospels" - Matthew, Mark, & Luke. These three contain very similar content, at times near identical, and differ significantly from John's gospel.
- Luke most likely penned both his gospel and Acts between 57-62 AD.

II. Who is Theophilus?

- His name means "lover of God."
- The use of "most excellent" seems to indicate that he is a man of either means or power or both.
- Most believe that Theophilus was culturally Greek and not Roman.
- Theophilus was probably a fairly new convert to Christianity, struggling to find his place in this primarily Jewish story as a Gentile believer.

III. What did Luke intend? (1:1-4)

- To make a meaningful contribution along with those who did so before him.
- To compile both a robust gospel of both written accounts and eyewitness testimony (also oral tradition).
- To utilize thorough research and meticulous fact checking of sources.
- To provide an authoritative account that would be trusted and convincing.
- Probably, to add a sequel, or part two of the Jesus story after His resurrection and ascension.

IV. Take aways:

- God's preservation and transmission of His Word is absolutely amazing and warrants exuberant thanksgiving and praise!
- There's no place in matters of The Faith for cutting corners or carelessness.
- Never forget that everyone is welcome and invited to Jesus's table!
- A commitment to discipleship will move you to go deep and invest heavily in the lives of others.