

Sermon, January 22, 2012
“Christ and the Gospel”, Luke 8:4-15
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

The 27 Books of the New Testament

- Gospels: Matthew, Mark, **Luke**, and John
- Early Church: Book of Acts
- 13 Letters of Paul: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
- 8 General Letters: Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude
- Prophecy: Revelations

The Gospels

- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John write about Jesus birth, life, ministry of healing, ministry of teaching, miracles, passion, death, and resurrection.
- Each gives a slightly different view of the life of Christ written for different audiences and together gives us a clear picture of the life of Christ.
- Matthew writes to the Jews in narrative
- Mark writes to the Romans in narrative
- Luke writes to the Greeks in narrative
- John writes to all people in a greater theological context
- The gospels give a significant portion of their chapters to the last week of Jesus life (Matthew-25%, Mark-31%, Luke-21%, John-43%).

Overview of Luke :

- Luke was a companion of the Apostle Paul and wrote his gospel from interviews and assisting Paul in ministry
- Luke also wrote the Book of Acts
- The time of the writing is around 60 AD.
- Luke wrote for a Greek audience
- **Luke 1:1-4** *Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, ³ it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; ⁴ so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.*
- The Apostle Paul refers to Luke as a physician (Colossians 4:14)

Overall Outline of Luke:

1. Preface (1:1-4)
2. The Infancy Stories (1:5-2:52)
3. The Ministry of John the Baptist (3:1-20)
4. Introduction to Jesus Ministry (3:21-4:13)
5. Jesus in Galilee (4:14-9:50)
6. Jesus Journey from Galilee to Jerusalem (9:51-19:44)
7. Jesus in Jerusalem (19:45-21:38)
8. The Climax (22:1-24:53)

Major Themes of Luke:

- Luke is concerned with the grace of a Perfect Savior.
- Luke often depicts Jesus compassion for Gentiles, women, children, tax collectors, sinners and the downtrodden and outcasts of Israel;
- Christ is presented as the ideal Man. He was of the line of Adam.
- Luke gives a high profile to women and emphasizes their central role in the ministry of Jesus.

As we continue on the life of Christ from His birth, His baptism, His call to the disciples, let's look at the next important phase, His ministry.

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Luke 7:20-23; *The ministry of Jesus was to proclaim and teach the gospel.*

1. First of all we must understand that the seed is the Word of God

Luke 8:11*The seed is the word of God.*

- In Jesus case we know from the gospel of John that Jesus is the living Word that gives life.
- The sown seed is the gospel of Christ.

2. First Soil

Luke 8:5; Luke 8:12

- Identifies those who do not have ears for the Gospel,
- The Word never penetrates and so it is blown away from the surface of their understanding,
- Jesus portrays it as the devil coming to take it away,
- Those totally yielding to the temptations and wisdom of this world...
- **1 Peter 3:15**

3. Second Soil

Luke 8:6; Luke 8:13

- Identifies those who make an emotional decision from an emotional appeal, foxhole conversions, to Christ.
- Their conversion is not real and at the first sign of temptation, trial, tribulation, they abandon their falsely proclaimed faith.

4. Third Soil

Luke 8:7; Luke 8:13

- Identifies those who appear to make a commitment to Christ, but without true repentance.
- They cannot break loose from the binding ties of the world and are more concerned with what the world has to offer in its temporary enjoyments.

5. Fourth Soil

Luke 8:8; Luke 8:15

- These people have a deep interest in God’s Word and seek to put it into practice.
- Their lives are really changed and bear fruit as they patiently persevere.
- Identifies true believers who:
 - heard – those with an earnest understanding, and believing heart
 - hold fast - **Joshua 22:5** ⁵ *“Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to “love the LORD your God and walk in all His ways and keep His commandments and hold fast to Him and serve Him ^bwith all your heart and with all your soul.”*
 - ongoing obedience
 - Fruit – good works
- Ephesians 2:8-10; - *we are called to do good works (fruits)*
- Galatians 5:22; - good works (fruits) identified...love, joy, peace, patience...
- John 15:4-5 – Vine and branches, Jesus is the source of good works (fruits)
- **Who is the sower? The sower is God through Christ, the seed is the gospel proclaimed to each individual heart soil!**

Conclusion:

How is the soil of your heart?

When you hear the call of God on your life are you ready to accept it?

The soil of a heart for God accepts His word and responds by bearing fruit.