

The Manifesto of the Messiah

Chapter 1

Audio Lesson: New Testament #19



Objective: To introduce the author, the purposes, and the major themes of the Gospel of Luke.



“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

—Luke 4:18-19 (Isaiah 61:1-2)

We have now studied the Gospel of Matthew and will move on through the other Gospels, but we will not be specifically studying the book of Mark because everything that is found in Mark is also found in the other three Gospels. Now we begin studying the Gospel of Luke, a well-educated man, a doctor who often traveled with the apostle Paul and learned about the life of Jesus from many eyewitnesses. He was not one of the 12 apostles and probably wasn’t even Jewish. He was Greek and addressed his Gospel to Theophilus—which means “lover of God”—a man who was also Greek. Luke was a gifted writer and wrote a very orderly and accurate history.

Luke is the favorite Gospel of many because its portrayal of the Messiah emphasizes Jesus’ humanity as the God-Man. It shows His compassion and how He identified Himself with us. All the way through Luke’s Gospel, we see the human touch of Jesus.

Luke’s Gospel is unique. Many of Jesus’ best-known parables, like the stories of the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan, are found only in Luke. Luke tells us more about the birth and early life of Jesus than any other Gospel writer. Luke gives us a description and a mental picture of Jesus Christ that contributes so very much to the record of the Son of God and the Son of Man as He truly was, and as He really is today. And Luke gives us Christ’s manifesto—the clear statement of His mission, the key to the ministry of the Messiah.



1. True or false? Luke was one of the 12 disciples.
2. True or false? Luke not only wrote the gospel of Luke, he also wrote the book of Acts.
3. True or false? Luke was not very well educated, and his writings show that he was not a very accurate historian.
4. True or false? Jesus said in His “manifesto” that He came to preach good news to the poor, to set captives free, and to give sight to the blind, but He never really demonstrated these things.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Match the following gospels with each one’s special emphasis on Jesus.

a. Matthew	1. Jesus as a servant
b. Mark	2. Jesus as God
c. Luke	3. Jesus as King
d. John	4. Jesus as human
6. What other aspects of Jesus’ ministry does Luke emphasize? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. Judgment
 - b. Healing
 - c. Social concerns
 - d. Long sermons
 - e. The Holy Spirit
7. What was the Spirit upon Jesus to do?
 - a. To heal, preach, and set people free
 - b. To improve people’s income and their standard of living
 - c. To set political prisoners free
 - d. To start a revolution
8. How did Jesus respond to a man whose friends lowered him through a roof to see Jesus?
 - a. He rebuked them for damaging the roof.
 - b. He told them they would have to wait their turn.
 - c. He forgave the man’s sins and then healed him.
 - d. He told the man to repent first, and then he would consider healing him.
9. Why did Jesus heal the man who was lowered through the roof?
 - a. To show he really cared and wanted to cure everyone
 - b. To prove to the friends they had done the right thing
 - c. Actually, He just made it look like a miracle; the man was not paralyzed.
 - d. To prove He was God and had the authority to forgive sin



What aspects of Jesus' ministry—His healing, preaching, and setting people free—do you think you most need to experience right now? Is there anything from which you need to be set free and place before God? Is there any area of your life that needs to be healed? Is there any aspect of God's will and His ways about which you need to learn more? If so, what?

Now, is there anyone for whom you need to be a friend and bring them lovingly to Jesus? Who?



Thank God for sending Jesus to show compassion to His people and to free them from the bondage of sin, disease, and darkness. Ask Him to help you understand Him better through this study of Luke and John. Also ask Jesus to meet your needs according to His will and to help you meet the needs of others in His name.



Going Deeper

1. After Jesus declared His manifesto (Luke 4:18), how did He prove that manifesto in Luke chapter 5? _____

2. In what ways did He practice His manifesto, and who were the poor to whom He preached the Good News? _____

3. In what ways did He challenge others to participate with Him in the implementation of His manifesto? _____

4. How does the context in which Jesus gave His discourse about the lost things in chapter 15 demonstrate His challenging of people to participate with Him in the implementation of His manifesto? _____

5. How is the Parable of the Unjust Steward (Luke 16) a positive illustration of someone accepting His invitation to participate with Him in the implementation of His manifesto? _____

6. How is the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus a negative illustration of that same truth? _____

7. In what ways does Luke demonstrate the humanity of Jesus, the fact that He was a Man as well as God? _____
