



The Gospel according to Luke

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Luke probably did not know Jesus personally. At the beginning of the first chapter (Lk. 1:1 – 4), Luke made it known that he conducted extensive research on the life of Jesus and relied on eyewitnesses to draw up an account of the events that took place at that time.
2. Although inspired in the same way as the other gospel writers, Luke is the only one to address his gospel to a man, a friend and brother in Christ: Theophilus (Lk. 1:1 – 4). Furthermore, Luke in his Gospel emphasizes the perfect humanity of Christ, whom he presents as the Son of Man, a person who is both human and divine and whose descent goes back to Adam. (Lk. 3:23 – 38)
3. Luke, referring to certain Roman dignitaries, is the only one of all the biblical authors to have dated the events he reports. He was determined to give an accurate, ongoing account of the life of Jesus, which meant placing the facts in their historical context. (Lk. 2:1 – 2; 3:1 – 2)
4. Because of the census mentioned in verse 2, Mary had to go to her hometown in a very advanced stage of pregnancy. As a result, the Messiah was born in Bethlehem, fulfilling an ancient prophecy.
5. Most Christmas celebrations are based on Luke because he gives a detailed account of the circumstances of Jesus' birth. Only Luke gives information about the childhood and adolescence of Jesus, which is reported in chapter 2. For this reason, many scholars believe that Luke would have interviewed Mary, the mother of Jesus, while investigating the life of Jesus.
6. Luke is probably the only non-Jewish author of the New Testament. He emphasized that the good news of Jesus was for all people, not just the Jews. In keeping with this objective, he traced Jesus' lineage back to the first man, Adam. (Lk. 3:23 – 38)
7. The title of physician is associated with the name of Luke (Col. 4:14), author of the third gospel, considered the longest of the gospels, and the book of Acts.
8. Luke is the only author to state that Jesus began his ministry when he was about thirty years old. (Lk. 3 :23)
9. Luke presents the genealogy Jesus from Mary, his mother, not as in Matthew, to Abraham, the father of the chosen people, but to Adam, the father of our humanity. (Lk. 3 :23 – 38)
10. Luke was a member of the upper class by education and profession, but he shows a special interest in the poor and oppressed. There is no doubt that the message of Jesus had touched him deeply. (Lk. 5 :31 – 32)

11. In Luke, even Mary's opening song takes into consideration the poor and hungry (Lk. 1:46 – 55). Using Jesus' most recurring title « Son of Man » 80 times, Luke presents the Messiah as a true servant of all humanity.
12. Chapters 9-19 contain many events and statements that are not found elsewhere in the Bible. First, Jesus sent the twelve; then seventy-two others to announce his message to all who would listen. These chapters contain Jesus' last detailed instructions to his faithful followers.
13. Six women are named Mary in the New Testament: Mary, the mother of Jesus; Mary, the mother of the apostle James (Mk. 15:40); Mary, the wife of Cleopas (Jn. 19:25); Mary of Bethany, sister of Martha and Lazarus (Lk. 10:39, 42; Jn. 11); Mary Magdalene, a woman from Magdala, from whom seven demons had come out (Lk. 8:2); Mary, the mother of John, or Mark, cousin of Barnabas; Mary, a Christian woman from Rome to whom Paul sends his greetings. (Rom. 16 :6)
14. Matthew has preserved for us the parables that depict the nature and future destiny of the kingdom of God, while Luke focuses on those that most poignantly reveal God's mercy to sinners. (Luke 15)
15. The gospel according to Luke contains more parables than the other three. Eighteen (18) parables are told only by the latter, such as: the Good Samaritan (Lk. 10:30-37); the two debtors (Lk. 7:40-50); the rich fool (Lk. 12:13-21); the conceited guest (Lk. 14:7-14); the lost coin and the prodigal son (Lk. 15:8-32); the unfaithful steward (Lk. 16:1-13); the unrighteous judge and the publican and Pharisee (Lk. 18 :9-14), etc.
16. Luke skillfully portrays each of the characters. Educated and refined, the Greek he uses is the most classical of all the Gospels. But curiously, his main focus is on the poor and the abandoned. Women, largely ignored by ancient historians, play a major role: Luke presents 13 women who are not mentioned in any other Gospel. He also shows joy and appreciation for children.
17. Luke's concern for the weakest is clearly seen in the stories he has chosen, especially in chapters 18 and 19. For instance, the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector makes a clear distinction between the proud and the humble. The stories that follow also feature the weak, little children, a blind beggar and another tax collector.
18. Luke is the most prolific author of the New Testaments after the Apostle Paul. He wrote the Gospel according to Luke and the book of Acts. Note that the Apostle John wrote more books than Luke, but the two books of Luke are larger than the five books of John which are: the Gospel according to John, 1, 2 and 3 John, and the book of Revelation which is the last book of the New Testament and the Bible.
19. Among the evangelists, Luke alone recorded three of the seven words Jesus spoke on the cross: the first (Lk. 23:34), the second (Lk. 23:43) and the seventh. (Lk. 23 :46)
20. Luke is the only one who states, apart from Paul, that the risen Jesus made an appearance to Peter. (Lk. 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5)