

Deeper Riches: Luke Bible Study
Week 4 - Luke 3:1-4:44

Before you begin...

As we head into Luke 3 and 4, Jesus is no longer a child. He has grown “in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man.” It is time for him to begin his earthly ministry, and Luke is going to walk us through his inauguration in a very deliberate way. As Jesus begins his earthly ministry in this week’s passage, pay attention to what each narrative tells us about who Jesus is. Think about why Luke included each story.

Simeon prophesied that Jesus would reveal the hearts of many people, that he would cause some to rise, but others to stumble (Luke 2:34-35). Pay attention this week to how people respond to Jesus. Who do they take him to be? What do their responses to Jesus (and John) reveal about their hearts?

God, you have promised that your Holy Spirit will help me to understand and interpret the scriptures. Please open my mind right now to understand your Word. As I learn more about Jesus, reveal my heart. Grow me in Christlikeness and root out anything that prevents me from trusting in you as I should. Restore to me the joy of my salvation and prepare me to receive my returning King.

Day 1 - Luke 3:1-20

1. **Read Luke 3:1-20.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. Read it again and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or **ideas**

If you prefer to take some time to write out more observations, try using the Observation Guides at DeeperRiches.com/Luke or write out your observations and thoughts in a journal.

2. How would you categorize the different people mentioned in **Luke 3:1-2**? What is distinct about John?

3. In **Luke 3:3** John proclaimed “**a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.**”

Baptism literally means “*dipping, sinking, immersion or submersion.*” The crowds who came out to see John would have been familiar with baptism. It was used from the time of Moses for consecrating the priests (Exodus 29:4) and for purification rites (Leviticus 14:8). It was also common practice for any Gentile (non-Jew) who wanted to convert to Judaism to be baptized into the faith. For converts to Judaism, baptism was a symbol of leaving the old “unclean” life behind and publicly associating with the people of God. (Cambridge Bible for Schools and Scholars).

- a. What is **repentance**? Look up a definition.

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- b. How are **baptism** and **repentance** connected?
 - c. Why do you think John was calling everyone to be baptized at that time (not just priests, or Gentile converts)?
4. **Luke 3:4-6** tells us that John's baptism prepares the road for the approach of the Messiah King, fulfilling Isaiah 40:3-5.
- a. How do you think John's baptism of repentance might have prepared the nation of Israel for their coming Messiah?
 - b. How does repentance prepare your heart for the work God wants to do in your life? Can you think of a specific example?
5. Look at John's interaction with the crowds in **Luke 3:7-14**.
- a. What do you find surprising about John's words in **Luke 3:7-9**?
 - b. What does John warn the people about in **Luke 3:8-9**?
 - c. How do the crowds respond to John's rebuke in **Luke 3:10-14**?
 - d. What do you find interesting about the kinds of "fruit" does John describes in **Luke 3:11-14**?
6. What do you learn about "the Christ" (or "Messiah") from **Luke 3:15-17**? How is his baptism going to differ from John's baptism?

✦ **Deep Dive:** Read **Malachi 4:1-6**. Luke told us already that this passage refers to John the Baptist's ministry. How does **Malachi 4:1-3** relate to John's interaction with the crowds in **Luke 3:7-9,16-17**? How does it help you understand John's words?

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7. Read **Luke 3:19-20**. How does Herod's reaction to John differ from the reaction of the crowds? Why do you think that is?
8. Why might Luke have mentioned Herod's imprisonment of John here?
9. What area of your life needs **repentance** right now? What will it look like for you to **bear fruit in keeping with repentance**?

PRAY:

- **Confess** to the Lord the sin he has brought to your mind today.
- **Thank** God for his promise: "If we confess our sins, his is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)
- **Ask** for God's help in bearing the fruit of repentance by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Day 2 - Luke 3:21-3:38

1. Read **Luke 3:21-38**. Underline or mark what stands out to you. How does it differ from the other passages we have studied in Luke?
2. Why do you think Jesus was baptized even though he had no sin?
3. Take a closer look at **Luke 3:22**.
 - a. What do you find significant about this event?
 - b. What does it reveal about who Jesus is?
4. In **Luke 3:23**, why does Luke say Jesus was the son, "**so it was thought**," of Joseph? (Remember **Luke 1:26-38**.)

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Though genealogies, like the one found in Luke 3, are not so common in biographies of our day, genealogies were essential to the ancient Jews. For example, priests were not allowed to serve in the temple unless they could prove their descent from Aaron (Ezra 2:62).

5. What details stand out to you as important in the genealogy of Jesus found in **Luke 3:24-38**?

❖ **Deep Dive:** Compare Luke's genealogy of Jesus with the genealogy found in **Matthew 1**. Where do they differ? What are some possible reasons for those differences?

6. In the gospel of Matthew, the author traces Jesus' genealogy back to Abraham. Luke's genealogy goes all the way back to the first man, Adam.

- a. What do Adam and Jesus have in common? Consider **Luke 3:21-22, 3:38, 4:1-2**, and **Genesis 3**.
- b. Read **Romans 5:12,18-19**. What was the result of Adam's disobedience when he gave in to the temptation of the serpent?
- c. What was the result of Jesus' obedience to God, all the way to death on a cross?

7. Luke inserts this genealogy into the middle of the flow of the story. What do you think Luke wants us to see by inserting it here?

8. What do you find personally challenging or encouraging from Jesus' baptism or genealogy?

Take a moment to **pray** in response to what God has shown you in this passage.

Day 3 - Luke 4:1-13

1. **Read Luke 4:1-13**. Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or **ideas**

2. What do you find interesting or puzzling about **Luke 4:1-2**?

3. What do you find significant about the timing or circumstances of Jesus' temptation?

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4. List the three temptations Jesus faced. What would Jesus have gained from each of these things?
5. The devil is “the Father of Lies” (John 8:44). What lies would Jesus have had to believe in order to give in to these temptations?

✦ **Deep Dive:** *How do these temptations relate to the way the serpent tempted Adam and Eve in Genesis 3?*

6. The devil addresses Jesus by saying, “**If you are the Son of God...**” What do you think he means?
7. How does the devil change his approach the third time he tempts Jesus (**Luke 4:9-11**)? Why do you think he does this?
8. Read **Hebrews 4:15**. How does this verse encourage you personally? How does it help you understand why Luke included this story?
9. Think of an area of your life where you are often tempted to sin.
 - a. When are you most vulnerable to this temptation?
 - b. Read **1 Corinthians 10:13**. How could this scripture help you gain victory in this area?
 - c. Jesus used scripture to battle temptation. He identified the lies of Satan and used Truth to counteract the lies. What thoughts go through your head when you are giving in to this sin? What Truth do you need to remember to counteract these lies?

PRAY:

- **Confess** to God the things that you have been struggling with.
- **Declare** the scripture He gave you.
- **Ask** for his help in fighting this fight.
- **Yield** this area of your life to him.
- **Thank** him for his promises to you in this area.

Day 4 - Luke 4:14-30

1. **Read Luke 4:14-30.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:
 - **who** is in the passage
 - **what** is happening
 - **when** and **where**
 - **repeated words** or ideas
2. What do you notice about Jesus' ministry in **Luke 4:14-17**?
3. A huge theme in Luke is that Jesus fulfills all the Old Testament Scriptures. Read the words from the prophet Isaiah recorded in **Luke 4:18-19**.
 - a. *Christ* or *Messiah* literally means "Anointed One." How was Jesus **anointed** for his ministry (**Luke 3:21-22**)?
 - b. How does Jesus fulfill this prophecy (**Luke 4:18-19**)?
- ❖ **Deep Dive:** The "year of the Lord's favor" probably refers to the Year of Jubilee, described in **Leviticus 25**. How does Jesus bring in a greater fulfillment of the Year of Jubilee?
4. How did the people of Nazareth receive Jesus in **Luke 4:20-23**? What particularly impressed them? What did they want from him?
5. What point do you think Jesus was trying to make with the stories of Elijah and Elisha in **Luke 4:24-27**? (Hint: What do these stories have in common with what is happening here?)
6. What do you find interesting about what happens in **Luke 4:28-30**?
7. What do you think Luke wants to show us by starting the narrative of Jesus' ministry with a story of rejection?

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8. Jesus was rejected in his hometown. How about you? What challenges have you faced in sharing the good news of Jesus with people in your family or hometown?

Pray Luke 4:18-19 right now. Use it as a prayer of thanksgiving or praise, or pray it over someone who is resistant to the good news about Jesus.

Day 5 - Luke 4:31-44

1. **Read Luke 4:31-44.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or ideas

2. What astonished the people of Capernaum about Jesus (**Luke 4:31** and **36**)? How does this differ from what amazed the people of Nazareth (**Luke 4:22**)? What else do you notice about Jesus' reception in Capernaum?

3. Why do you think Jesus did miracles of healing and driving out demons in Capernaum, but not in Nazareth?

4. What do these stories demonstrate about Jesus' power and authority? Where do his power and authority come from? (See **Luke 4:14** and **18**.)

5. Why do you think Jesus wouldn't let the demons testify that he is the Christ? (**Luke 4:34** and **41**)

❖ **Deep Dive:** *In Luke 4, Jesus is not telling people overtly that He is the Christ, and the cross and resurrection have not yet happened. So what was "the good news about the kingdom of God" that Jesus proclaimed in the synagogues of Judea?*

6. Is there something you need to believe about Jesus based on the events in Nazareth and Capernaum?

Pray a prayer of **praise** right now based on what this passage revealed about Jesus.

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Pulling it all together

1. What is one thing you think Luke really wants us to understand from this week's passages? **If you have time, reread all of Luke 3 and 4 before answering.**
2. How does Luke use each narrative in this passage to highlight both the humanity and the superiority of Jesus?
3. What did you learn about the supernatural realm (angels/demons) in Luke 3-4 compared with Luke 1-2?
4. Where do you see the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in these chapters? How do these events help you understand the work of the Holy Spirit compared to the work of the Son of God?
5. What is your most important personal take-away from this chapter? (Was there a **key verse**, a **special insight**, an **example** to follow, a new **way to pray**, something that **challenged** or **convicted** you, etc...)

In what area of your life does this seem to matter most, and how?

P.R.A.Y. in response to this passage:

<p>PRAISE. Thank and Praise God for Who he is and what he has done. Be specific.</p>	<p>REPENT. Confess your sin to God and turn from it. Agree with God about the things that need to change. Be specific.</p>
<p>ASK. What will you ask God to do based on what he has shown you? Be specific.</p>	<p>YIELD. What will you surrender to God? How can you trust and obey him in response to what he has shown you? Be specific.</p>

Small Group Discussion Guide:

1. John preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins to prepare the way for the coming Messiah King. What is repentance? What does it have to do with baptism? How can repentance prepare the way for God to work in us?
2. What does it mean to bear fruit in keeping with repentance? How serious are John's warnings about this?
3. What did you find significant about the genealogy of Jesus in Luke 3? How does "Jesus, Son of God," compare with "Adam, son of God?"
4. How did Jesus' example of battling temptation encourage or challenge you personally?
5. How was Jesus anointed for his ministry? What work was he sent to do? What kind of ministering did Jesus do in these two chapters?
6. Why do you think Jesus did miracles of healing and driving out demons in Capernaum, but not in Nazareth? How does this encourage or challenge you?
7. How does Luke use each narrative in this week's passage to highlight both the humanity and the superiority of Jesus?
8. Where did you see the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in these chapters? How do these events help you understand the work of the Holy Spirit compared to the work of the Son of God?

What is your big take-away from this passage or this discussion? Is there anything you need to confess or yield to God in response to this Truth? What will you praise God for? What will you ask God to do?