



Jesus, Amazingly Yours:

That You May Trust These Words, Luke 1:1-25

This is a “lectionary gap” study of the Gospel according to Luke - meaning we hope to look deeply at those Lukan sections that are not read in our weekend worship this church year. The Holy Spirit used Luke to write this Gospel (and Volume 2: Acts) as an orderly account of God’s good news to us. Rest assured of this, dear friend: Jesus is amazingly yours.

The Certainty

Luke 1:1-4

Talking points that impact our own testimony of God’s Word:

1. Many others were writing accounts of the life of Jesus (reliable, it seems, as coming straight from eyewitnesses), of *“the things that have been fulfilled among us”*.
2. Luke did his own careful investigation from the beginning (infancy narratives in chapters 1-2). *How reliable must this Gospel be for it to get widespread use and acceptance?*
 - a. 1 Timothy 5:18 – “the worker deserves his wages” – quote from Jesus in Luke 10:7
 - b. (2 Peter 3:15-16; 2 Timothy 3:16)
3. Theophilus was in need of certainty of what he’d been taught, and Luke cared about that. *“God does not need us to defend him, but people need help to understand.” Facts matter, yet we know faith is the Spirit’s work.*

The Angel Announces John’s Birth

Luke 1:5-25

Notes:

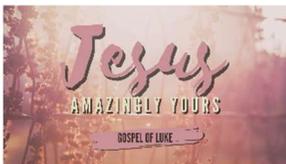
- Herod the Great 74 BC – 4 BC (ruler from 37 BC – 4 BC). From Idumea. Very cruel man who murdered members of his own family, including his wife Mariamne. Responsible for the temple in Jesus’ day.
- Temple start, temple focus
- During the reign of David the priests had been organized into 24 divisions (1 Chron. 24:1-6). Only four divisions returned from Babylon, but these were re-divided and given the old names. Twice a year each division was on duty in the temple, and each time the period of service was one week.
 - 24 divisions of 860 men made up the priesthood.
 - 35 men per division.
 - A priest could offer the incense at the daily sacrifice only once in his lifetime.
- Nazirite vow: Numbers 6
- Malachi 4:5-6 – Spirit of Elijah and the turning of hearts
- Centering format: focus is on Gabriel’s message (verses 13-17)

<i>Meet the Parents</i>	<i>Before the Lord</i>	<i>Preparing a People</i>

What are you eager to tell someone else about today's reading?

Awake, O Spirit, who inspired The watchmen of the Church's youth,
 Who faced the foe's envenomed ire, Who witnessed day and night your truth,
 Whose voices loud are ringing still And bringing hosts to know your will.

And let your Word have speedy course, Through ev'ry land be glorified,
 Till all the heathen know its force And fill your churches far and wide.
 Oh, spread the conquest of your Word And let your kingdom come, dear Lord!
 CW 567:1,4



June 9, 2019 Sunday Bible Class
Jesus, Amazingly Yours: that you may share the joy ... Luke 1:56-67