

WHERE TO BEGIN

Ready for Pentecost #3, Luke 24:13-35

May 8, 2022

*This is what is written:
The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,
and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached
in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
You are witnesses of these things.
Luke 24:46-48*

When Jesus appears

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Luke 24:36-49

1. “Peace” is God’s response to our fear
2. Jesus finally had to eat fish to convince the disciples of his resurrection
3. Jesus has been opening minds all day long! (See Acts 16:11-15, 17:1-4 and Paul’s “explaining”)
4. We are still witnesses of “these things”
5. God is going to send the Holy Spirit – the “power from on high” to carry out the Great Commission

One more time: Jesus' summary of the Bible's message

⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Luke 24

Doug's challenge: Can you tell the Jesus story from the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms?

Doug's deeper challenge: Can you tell the "in his name to all nations" story from the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms?

The Great Commission

¹⁵ He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

Mark 16

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

John 20

⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Luke 24 (see also the second version of this in Acts 1:1-8)

1. This is why there are four gospels!
2. Each of these Great Commission forms turns our eyes outward
3. Each of these Great Commission forms comes with authority from God

Doug's question: How do we move from preparing for to carrying out the Great Commission?

Jesus always included repentance in the gospel message

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Mark 1

1. The authentic *kerygma* has always included an authentic call to repentance (see Jonah 3:10)
2. Repentance is the opposite of “foolish and slow to believe” (with thanks to Keller’s “Repentance”)

Deep humility (against my pride)

Burning love (replacing apathy or indifference)

Wise courage (vs. anxiety)

Godly motivation (a “single eye” for God’s glory and the good of others)

Where do I begin (with help from Charles Spurgeon)

- 1) What to preach? Every witnesses need a testimony

³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. ³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

Acts 2

- 2) Where to preach? Everywhere

The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.

² *“I will make you into a great nation
and I will bless you;*

*I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.*

³ *I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

Genesis 12

- 3) How to preach? “In his name” as his ambassadors

²⁰ *We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us?”*

2 Corinthians 5:20

3) Where to begin?

We are to preach to you first because, when you have received him, you will praise him most. If you are saved you will encourage others to come, and you will cheer up those who have come already. We shall be glad to get fresh blood poured into the veins of the church by the conversion of big sinners who love much because they have had much forgiven. Therefore, we are to come to you *first*. Will you not come to Christ at once? Oh, that you would believe in him! Oh that you would believe in him to-night! To you is the word of this salvation sent. You old sinners—you that have added sin to sin, and done all you can do with both hands wickedly—you that have cursed his name—you that have robbed others—you that have told lies—you that have blackened yourselves with every crime, come and welcome to Jesus. Come to Christ and live at once. Mercy's door is set wide open on purpose that the vilest of the vile may come; and they are called to come first. Just as you are, come along with you. Tarry not to cleanse or mend, but now "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." This night if you believe in Jesus you shall go out of these doors rejoicing that the Lord has put away your sin. To believe is to *trust*—simply to trust in Christ. It seems a very simple thing, but that is why it is so hard. If it were a hard thing you would more readily attend to it; but being so easy you cannot believe that it is effectual. But it is so; faith does save. Christ wants nothing of you but that you accept what he freely presents to you. Put out an empty hand, a black hand, a trembling hand; accept what Jesus gives, and salvation is yours.

Thus have I tried to expound "Beginning at Jerusalem," O that my Lord would begin with *you*. Amen.

Charles Spurgeon, conclusion to "Beginning at Jerusalem"

1. Because "it is written" in the Scripture (see Isaiah 2:3; Joel
2. Because Jerusalem is where all this has happened
3. So that the disciples would not forget the Jews
4. Because Jerusalem is where they would be tempted NOT to preach
5. Because we begin at home
6. Because much has already been done in Jerusalem
7. Because the gospel day is short
8. Because we expect opposition
9. Because the biggest sinners live here!

Resources for studying Luke

Bible.org has some wonderful resources at <https://bible.org/book/Luke>

I. Howard Marshall's Greek commentary is my go to help (Eerdmans, 1978)

Spurgeon has a Great Commission sermon from Luke at <http://www.romans45.org/spurgeon/sermons/1729.htm>

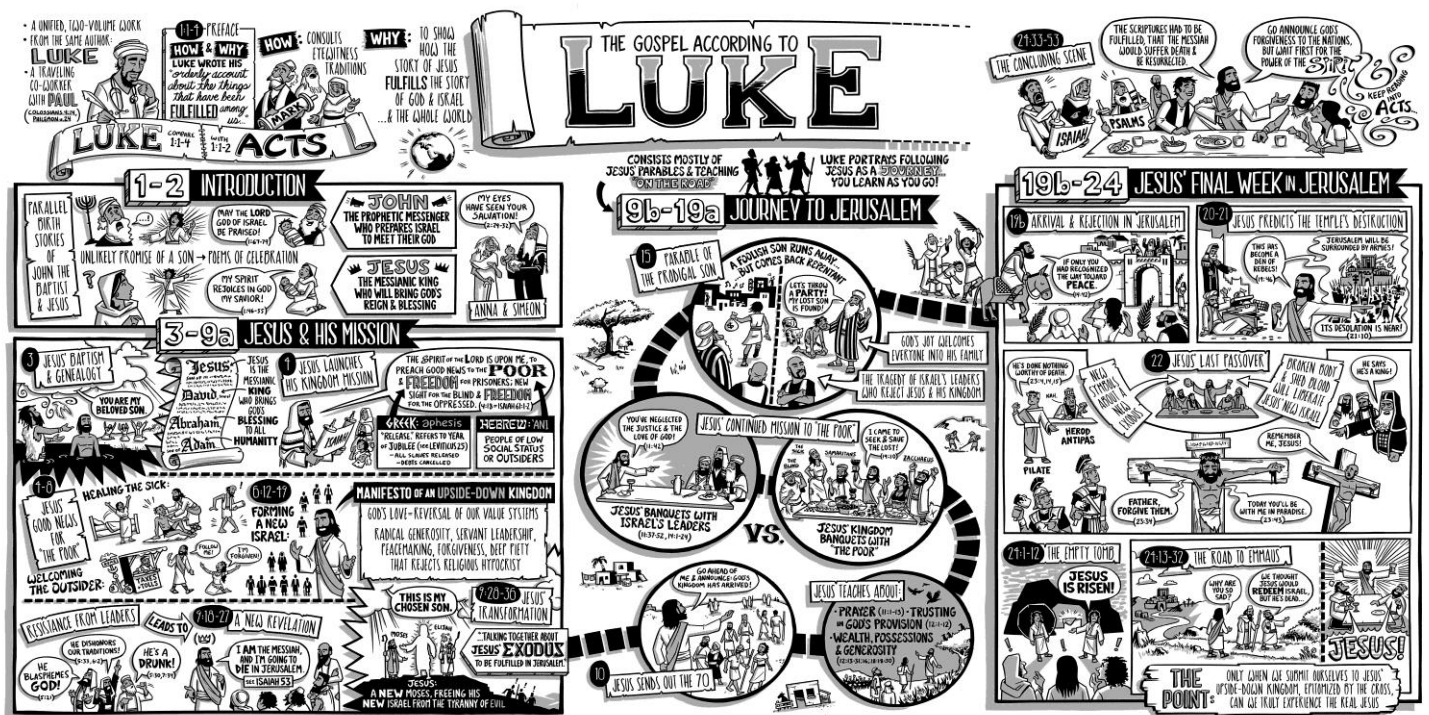
J. C. Ryle has an interesting commentary at <https://gracegems.org/Ryle/124.htm> I have also included his classic article, "Repentance", at <https://www.monergism.com/repentance>

Bob Deffinbaugh has a very interesting sermon series on Luke at <https://bible.org/series/luke-gospel-gentiles>. His message on the end of Luke is at <https://bible.org/seriespage/invisibility-invincibility-luke-2436-53>

If you want to equip yourself to explain why we believe in resurrection, Michael Horton has a wonderful, if a bit heavy, article at <https://whitehorseinn.org/resource-library/articles/risen-indeed-2/>

Pink has an interesting "Christian Fools" message at <https://www.monergism.com/christian-fools>

Tim Keller has some very interesting comments on the mission of the church at <https://redeemercitycity.com/articles-stories/the-missional-church> and a contemporary look at repentance at http://download.redeemer.com/pdf/learn/resources/All_of_Life_Is_Repentance-Keller.pdf



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