**December 2023 – Bible Book of the Month – Luke**

I am excited to write to you about our Bible Book of the Month for December this year, the Gospel of Luke. This is a fitting gospel to read during Advent, as Luke’s account includes more details on the birth of Jesus Christ than any of the four gospels.

As you prepare to read this beautiful gospel, I would like to highlight just a few things in particular that I love about Luke’s gospel. First, as was already mentioned, I love the additional details that Luke includes centering around the birth of Jesus Christ. This includes the birth of his cousin John, Mary’s visitation by the angel Gabriel, Mary’s and Zechariah’s songs of praise, the shepherds receiving the announcement of the birth of the Messiah, and finally, the interactions of Jesus’ parents with Simeon & Anna at the Temple in Jerusalem. These as well as other unique stories found in Luke’s gospel definitely reveal that Luke did extensive research and many interviews before writing his gospel (See Luke 1:1-4).

Second, with Luke being a doctor (See Colossian 4:14) it is not surprising to read of the meticulous details that Luke often includes in his account. Great examples of this are found in Luke 2:1-3 & Luke 3:1-2. Details like these help historians to better understand the timeline for the events written about in the gospels as they happened in real time and space, rather than being pulled out of the thin air of someone’s imagination. Additionally, doctors like Luke would know that there are medical conditions attesting to the details that he writes about (i.e., Luke 22:44).

Third, Luke includes extensive material focusing on discipleship, much of which is unique to his gospel. In Luke 5:1-9:11 & Luke 9:51-19:27 there are numerous examples of what Christian discipleship is to look like for those that say yes to following Jesus. These passages remind us that following Jesus is not easy, but it is the pathway to life and life eternal.

Fourth, I love the examples of post-resurrection appearances that Luke includes in his gospel. Like the birth details, these details following his resurrection help to ground the resurrection of Jesus as historical fact, of which many people could testify.

And fifth and finally, it is a true blessing that the Lord inspired Luke to not only write his gospel, but to also follow it up with the Book of Acts. These two books combined paint a very detailed account of Jesus during his earthly ministry and into His continued ministry in building His church from heaven.

May our Lord bless you as you read this good news that was meant to bring great joy for all people (See Luke 2:10).

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