



SERMON NOTES

Week 1 February 18, 2024

“Eyewitness Testimony”

Luke 1:1-4



I. Introduction

- A. The _____ faith is investigable.
- B. The Christian faith rises and falls on the identity of a single individual, _____ of Nazareth.
- C. The question for a skeptic to ask when it comes to Christianity is this: Is Matthew, Mark, Luke or John a _____ account of actual events?

II. Introduction to the Gospel of Luke

- A. Luke tells us that _____ people have attempted to draw up an account of the things that have literally happened or been fulfilled right here among us.
- B. Why would so many people tell the story of Jesus? Because something extraordinary happened and something _____ had happened.
- C. Luke's account of the life of Jesus was included in the Bible, because Luke's account was considered reliable when it was _____.
- D. Luke wanted to assure us that our faith was anchored to an event: the _____ of Jesus.

III. Following Jesus

- A. The stories in the Bible about Jesus are not just _____ stories, the story of Jesus is “the story.”
- B. Following _____ will require something *of* you and something *from* you.
- C. Don't give up on following Jesus because you don't think there's anything to the story of Jesus until you personally _____ the story for yourself.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *February 19-24, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

More people in our world today have become skeptical of the claims of Christianity. This has led to more and more modern people dismissing faith. What does that mean for Christians? Christians are not expected to believe based solely on a collection of ancient manuscripts. The foundation of our faith is anchored to something far more substantial and sustainable.

Monday: Luke 1:1-4

What stands out to you regarding how Luke began this book?

Tuesday: Luke 2:21-52

Reflect on Simeon's words in verses 34-35. How did each phrase point to an aspect of Jesus' life and ministry? In what ways has your loyalty to Jesus brought challenges and adjustments in life? Has facing those challenges for Jesus' sake been worth it?

Wednesday: Luke 3:1-22

John the Baptist showed a sense of urgency as he passionately called people to change their life's direction. To what extent do you feel a sense of urgency in pursuing God's path for your life? What steps help you keep your commitment to God's call strong and focused?

Thursday: Luke 3:23-4:13

Our culture often toys with the medieval idea of an ugly, horned devil. Would a figure like that have actually appealed to Jesus? Are you tempted, not by a dark "devil" figure, but by an inner whisper urging you to ignore God's way? How can embracing your identity as God's child help you resist that whisper?

Friday: Luke 4:14-44

Jesus claimed Isaiah 61:1-2 as his "job description." He later said doing what he did is the call for all his followers (cf. John 14:12, 20:21). Re-read Luke 4:18-19. Which parts of this work are you most passionate about? Will you accept Jesus' "job offer" and join him in actively carrying out God's mission in our hurting world?

Saturday: Luke 5:1-26 Luke 5:1-26

Sadly, many religious leaders watched Jesus with a critical spirit (verses 17-21). They didn't like him helping "sinners." Scholar Hans Küng wrote, "The Church must always dissociate itself from sin, but it can never have any excuse for keeping any sinner at a distance."* Are you fully aware that only a church that, like Jesus, welcomes "sinners" can truly welcome you?

MOVING FORWARD

Luke makes it clear that he wrote his Gospel based on eyewitness testimony and he wants to assure us that our faith was anchored to an event: the Resurrection of Jesus. The stories in the Bible about Jesus are not just Bible stories, the story of Jesus is "the story." Don't give up on following Jesus because you don't think there's anything to the story of Jesus until you personally investigate the story for yourself.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) Christian, B) Jesus, C) reliable. IIA) many, B) good, IIC) written, D) resurrection. IIIA) Bible, B) Jesus, C) investigate.

* Hans Küng, *On Being a Christian*. New York: Doubleday, 1976, p. 507