

# **Major Themes, Role-Models and Challenges** **In The Gospel According to Luke**

November 7, 2021

*Luke's primary purpose was to record an accurate, comprehensive account of Jesus' life. However, other concerns are also evident in his narrative. Luke's themes include:*

## 1. The universality of the Gospel.

Luke's account of Jesus' birth, ministry, death and resurrection emphasizes that the gospel is intended for all people, including Gentiles (2:14,32).

## 2. Concern for social outcasts.

Luke's Gospel underscores Jesus' particular concern for social outcasts, women and the poor. Jesus' first public sermon recorded in Luke (4:16-21) cited Isaiah 61:1-2 in proclaiming good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, healing for the blind and release for the oppressed (4:18-19).

## 3. Repentance.

The vocabulary of repentance in Luke, as manifested in the parable of the lost Son (15:11-32), the parable of the tax collector and the Pharisee (18:9-14) and the story of Zacchaeus (19:1-10). Repentance requires a fundamental reorientation toward God, which then leads to reconciliation of human relationships

## 4. Wealth.

Luke stressed the ethical aspects of the Christian life, making it clear that repentance involves a change in attitude that reveals itself in how a person handles money (3:10-14).

## FAITH IN ACTION

*The pages of Luke are filled with life lessons and role-models of faith—people who challenge believers to put faith in action.*

## **Role-Models**

1. MARY (1:26-38), Jesus' mother, obeyed God's calling despite innuendo, scandal, public censure and ridicule. Is God calling us to

- take on a servant role? Is sacrifice involved? Can we with Mary affirm unreservedly, “I am the Lord servant”(1:38)?
2. **MEN WHO CARRIED A PARALYZED MAN TO JESUS (5:17-26).** Let him down into a crowded area through the roof so he could be healed. They demonstrated compassion and care for one who would not otherwise have been able to obtain access to Jesus because of his disability. How do we care for the disabled around us? How can we make their way easier?
  3. **THE GOOD SAMARITAN (10:30-37)** defied an ancient tradition of prejudicial hatred and acted as a loving instrument of reconciliation when he helped a man in distress. Are there “undesirable” people in our community that we may have avoided? How can we instead reach out to them?
  4. **MARY (10:38-42),** the sister of Lazarus, yearned to be close to Jesus despite the social taboos of the day. Is Jesus calling us to set aside preconceived notions, customs or traditions to make Him our priority?
  5. **ZACCHAEUS (19:1-10)** was a truly repentant sinner who took reconciliation seriously. Is there someone in our individual lives with whom we need to make restitution or amends?
  6. **A WIDOW (21:1-4)** gave “all she had to live on” while others donated from their abundance. Is there sacrifice involved in what we offer the Lord?

## CHALLENGES

- (I) Cultivate new relationships that allow us to be a “giver”, not a “taker” (10:25-37 & 12:13-21)
- (II) Look for opportunities to share our wealth (money, time, talents, abilities ) with others (19:11-27 & 21:1-4).
- (III) Step out of our comfort zone by seeking ways to facilitate reconciliation between races, genders and social classes (7:36-50).
- (IV) Perform simple acts of kindness (5:18-19).