

Luke's Gospel No. 3

Luke – longest and most comprehensive of the four gospels, and longest book in the New Testament – has as its theme Christ, the Perfect Man who came to seek and save sinful men.

First, chapter 15 captures Luke's theme in three parables – the lost sheep, lost coin and lost son.

Second, Luke shows the universality of Christ's message, describing Jesus as the Saviour for all men: Jews, Samaritans, Gentiles, poor and rich, respectable and despised, the religious leaders and hated publicans (tax collectors).

Third, in particular, Zacchaeus, the tax collector was converted while Jesus was in his home! As to this man's conversion, Jesus said that he had come “to seek and to save that which was lost.” 19.10. This can be seen as the key verse of Luke's gospel. Jesus even chose another tax collector (Matthew) as one of his disciples! Matthew 10.3.

Fourth, Luke traced Jesus' genealogy (3.23-38) all the way back to Adam (rather than to Abraham, as in Matthew's gospel). This points to Jesus representing all mankind rather than just the Jewish nation.

Fifth, Luke has only five direct references to fulfilment of prophecy because that theme was not nearly so important to Gentile readers as it was to Jews.

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Christ's Gospel is a straightforward declaration, not a debate.

Ken Packer