

Evensong readings:-

by

Ecclesiasticus ch.38,vv1-14

Didymus

Colossians ch.4, vv7-end

Last week, we looked at Luke, the Evangelist, the Saint, and patron of Doctors and artists. Today we look at the work of Luke, his Gospel and the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. Luke's Gospel has been described by many as the most beautiful book in the world, with very good reason. We read and understand it through the prism of Tyndale and Coverdale's wonderful translation in the language that Shakespeare used. We meet events and characters both real and fictional who are part of our faith and of our secular lives – the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, and many others.

*St.Luke*

We have no exact idea about the commission that Luke was given, but his account stretches from the birth of John the Baptist to the Resurrection of Jesus, fuller historically than any of the others. It disagrees with Matthew not on the substance so much as the chronology, but is based mostly on Mark's Gospel. People have wondered whether Luke met Jesus, but surely if he had, he would have indicated the event in some way. Luke's presence on Paul's second and third journeys suggests to me that his faith was either born or strengthened through his travelling with Paul, before meeting the Disciples in Antioch and Jerusalem.

Luke's first chapters deal with the dramatic birth of John the Baptist, the angelic visitation, the birth and naming. Neither Mark nor John attempt an account of the Nativity, but Luke's account differs significantly from Matthew's. Indeed apart from the three names there is little resemblance. Matthew's Gospel was *probably* based on first-hand knowledge, closer to Jesus than Luke would have been. Luke's account seems to me to be a reconstruction of events based on second-hand information, but that is just my impression. We know that Luke had met Mark through his association with Paul, and he may well have met Mary in old age. This is suggested by the Magnificat, Mary's song of joy, which is close to Hannah's song in 1 Samuel ch.2, which Mary would have known as a child. "Song" is also used to describe passages either sung or spoken in scripture. So it is yet another case of "*Read it and find what it says to you.*"

Luke gave us the Benedictus, Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis, which have passed into Matins and Evensong liturgy. A great deal of the Christmas tradition arises from Luke's Gospel. The bulk of the Gospel is the most wonderful and precious treasury of Our Lord's teaching, through parables, through direct communications, or even denunciations. A summary of Luke's Gospel is attached. Although Luke's Gospel is based on the structure of Mark's, it contains nearly a third which is unique, from the last verses of Ch.9 to the beginning of Ch.18. This has baffled many expert theologians, and the general conclusion is that the source, referred to as "Q", was lost.



Luke continues to the Passion of Our Lord including the institution of the Last Supper, and the appalling cruelty meted out by the Romans and the stubborn disbelieving Jews. His last chapter describes the events of the Resurrection, and includes the story of the Road to Emmaus, very much a favourite in which we share something of the Disciples' astonishment at their hitherto unknown companion, painted by Caravaggio. We give thanks for our Gospel authors.

AMEN

EVENT	Ch.	Vv
The Nativity section	1&2	To v.40
The presentation in the Temple	2	40
The healing of the leper	5	12-16
The healing of the paralytic	5	17-26
Plucking corn on the Sabbath	6	1-5
The healing of the man with a withered arm	6	6-11
Luke's beatitudes	6	20-49 various
The Centurion's slave	7	1-10
The widow's son at Nain	7	11-17
Simon the Pharisee and the woman with the ointment	7	36-50
Parable of the Sower	8	4-8
Reason for parables and explanation	8	9-18
The stilling of the storm	8	22-25
The Gerasene epileptic	8	26-39
Healing of Jairus' daughter	8	40-43/49-55
Healing of the woman with an haemorrhage	8	43-48
Sending out of the twelve	9	1-6
The return of the twelve	9	10-11
The feeding of the 5000	9	12-17
The confession at Caesarea Phillippi	9	18-22
The Transfiguration	9	28-36
The healing of the boy with a spirit	9	37-43
The dispute about greatness	9	49-50
Q		
The sending out of the 70 and return	10	1-20
The Good Samaritan	10	29-37
Martha and Mary	10	38-42
The Lord's prayer, and prayer	11	1-13
Parable of the Rich fool	12	13-21
Watchfulness	12	35-48
The healing of the crippled woman	13	10-17
The parable of the mustard seed	13	18-21
The healing of the man with dropsy	14	1-6
The parable of the great dinner	14	15-24

The parable of the lost sheep	15	1-7
The parable of the woman's lost coin	15	8-10
The parable of the Prodigal Son	15	11-32
The unjust steward	16	1-13
The rich man and Lazarus	16	19-31
The slave's wages	17	7-10
The healing of ten lepers	17	11-19
The parable of the Widow and unjust judge	18	1-8
The parable of the Pharisee and tax collector	18	9-14
Jesus blesses the children	18	15-17
The rich young man	18	18-30
The healing of Bartimaeus	18	35-43
<u>End Q</u>		
Zaccheus	19	1-10
The parable of the stewardship of pounds	19	11-27
The cleansing of the Temple	19	45-48
The parable of the wicked tenants	20	9-19
The question about paying taxes	20	20-26
The widow's gift	21	1-4
The lesson of the fig tree	21	29-31
The Passion	22-23	
The Resurrection	24	1-12
The Road to Emmaus	24	13-32

