

JESUS IS FOR EVERYONE

Part 1 of Foundations 260. Luke 1-5.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. January 12, 2025.

SURVEYING LUKE 1-5

I noted eight significant insights in Luke 1-5.

1. The Gospel of Luke is a carefully researched account of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.
2. His conception and birth were announced by angels, who are God's messengers. Their presence indicates a massive move of God.
3. Jesus was the Jewish Messiah who fulfilled Old Testament promises of salvation.
4. Divine titles or descriptions are used of Jesus around 35 times. For example: The Son of the Most High, 1:32; the Holy One, 1:35; the Son of God, 1:35; Lord, 1:43; Savior, Messiah, Lord, 2:11; the salvation of God, 3:6; the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire, 3:16; God's beloved Son, 3:22; the Son of Man, 5:24.
5. Jesus resisted Satanic temptations in the wilderness, and so became the faithful, sinless, Suffering Servant of God who would atone for sin.
6. Jesus was a teacher and prophet who spoke with divine authority. He said that he came to preach the good news of the kingdom of God and to call sinners to repentance.
7. He performed miracles of healing and deliverance. Further, he forgave sins, which only God can do.
8. Jesus called Simon Peter and Levi to follow him.

JESUS IS FOR EVERYONE

1. SIMEON IN THE TEMPLE - Luke 2:25-32

Luke 2:25-32 (CSB) There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, looking forward to Israel's consolation, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he saw the Lord's Messiah. 27 Guided by the Spirit, he entered the temple. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform for him what was customary under the law, 28 Simeon took him up in his arms, praised God, and said, 29 Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace, as you promised. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation. 31 You have prepared it in the presence of all peoples — 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel. He brought the gospel to the city but was forced to leave by violent opponents.

- Jesus was the revelation or light of God to “all peoples” and “Gentiles.” In other words, everyone is invited to participate in God's salvation plan.
- If you have Jesus, you have everything you need to be saved.

2. JOHN AT THE JORDAN - Luke 3:4-6

Luke 3:3-6 (CSB) He went into all the vicinity of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight! 5 Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low; the crooked will become straight, the rough ways smooth, 6 and everyone will see the salvation of God.

- Luke uses the Greek Septuagint version of Isaiah 40:5 to emphasize that “everyone will see the **salvation** of God” (the Hebrew version reads “glory of the Lord”).
- John was forming a new, Messianic community based on repentance rather than ethnicity.

3. JESUS IN THE SYNAGOGUE - Luke 4:16-21, 25-27

Luke 4:16-21 (CSB) ... 17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him, and unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written:

18 The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

... 21 He began by saying to them, "Today as you listen, this Scripture has been fulfilled."

- Jesus was claiming to be the Anointed One or Messiah of God.
- He fulfilled God's promise of a Savior for the outcasts - the poor etc. In other words, everyone. The least, the last, and the lost are invited.

4. JESUS AND SINNERS - Luke 5:27-32

- Levi was a tax collector. He represents people far from God.

Luke 5:27-32 (CSB) After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, "Follow me." 28 So, leaving everything behind, he got up and began to follow him.

29 Then Levi hosted a grand banquet for him at his house. Now there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others who were reclining at the table with them. 30 But the Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners? "

31 Jesus replied to them, "It is not those who are healthy who need a doctor, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." They worked, labored, and endured - verse 3.

- Jesus called Levi to follow him; that is, to become a Christian.
- Jesus went to Levi's house to eat with tax collectors and sinners because Jesus is for everyone. He calls all of us to repent and follow him.

WHY DID JESUS GET BAPTIZED?

Perplexity.ai helped me summarize several helpful online articles.

None of the Gospels tell us why Jesus got baptized. After all, he did not need to repent. It may have been for one or more of the following reasons:

Fulfillment of Righteousness

Jesus told John that His baptism was necessary to "fulfill all righteousness" Jesus fulfilled in our place the righteousness we cannot attain. Isaiah 53:11 reminds us that Jesus' righteousness causes us to be counted righteous by God (2 Corinthians 5:19).

Identification with Sinners

By submitting to baptism, Jesus identified Himself with the sinful humanity He came to save. This act foreshadowed His ultimate identification with sinners on the cross, where He would bear the sins of the world (1 Peter 2:24).

Inauguration of Ministry

His baptism marked the beginning of Jesus' public ministry as the Holy Spirit anointed him. It also revealed him as the promised Messiah.

Trinitarian Revelation

Jesus' baptism provided a unique moment where all three persons of the Trinity were simultaneously revealed: The Beloved Son (Jesus) was baptized, the Holy Spirit descended like a dove, the Father spoke.

Helpful Sources

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/jesus-need-baptized>

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/why-was-jesus-baptized>

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-baptized.html>