

The Ministry of Jesus

Linking Luke's Gospel "Journey" to Ours
A Spiritual Resource of the Holy Spirit Catholic Community



Recommended Books

Explore the variety of fantastic resources on this week's topic Page 2



Success and Failure of the Apostles

The motley crew chosen by Jesus to build his Church are not all that different from us Page 3



Turning the World Upside Down

What empowered the early Christian community. Page 3

Opportunities for local service

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Coming Soon

Mark your calendar for our last session! Page 3

Expanding on Luke

We continue our discussion of the Gospel of Luke this month and spend some time contemplating his theme of "journey". For Luke, Jesus' life, from his detailed description of Jesus' infancy to his Resurrection, was about "journey". Note that, last month, we ended our discussion with Luke's themes of "hospitality" and "banquet" (Mass). Through Luke's Gospel and the Book of Acts we are continually called to "feed" others as we embark on our own "journey" in the footsteps of Jesus. This month our discussion continues with Jesus' Ministry and our call to follow him on His "journey".

Was it a coincidence that an angel appeared to a group of shepherds and made reference to the exact location where Jesus was to be born by

announcing "For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (Lk 2:13-14)? The Greek word for manger is "phatnay" – literally translated – a



"feeding or bread" trough. Jesus began his earthly journey in a "feeding trough"! Once again, Luke is showing us the close link of Jesus' ministry to feeding the world!!

In Luke's Gospel, he spends considerable time describing Jesus' literal "journey" to Jerusalem (Lk 9:51-19:44). However, much of what Luke is trying to convey about "journey" is hidden in the way Jesus "acts" on his "journey", through his relationship with his disciples, and the interactions he has with people he meets along the way. Jesus pushed the envelope by "shocking" his audience with the boldness of this unusual yet righteous "journey". Also note that his "journey" was not performed in secret...Jesus' acts and deeds are on display for all to see as news spread across the countryside (Lk 4:14, 37).

So, if Jesus asks us to follow him on his His "journey" (Lk 5:27; 9:23, 59, 57; 18:22, 28), what is our response? Do we keep it from others? Do we take the bold steps that are necessary to be his disciple?

"I did not consider myself worthy to come to you; but say the word and let my servant be healed." - Luke 7:7



Resources for Further Discovery

Here are some excellent resources to further explore the Gospel of Luke on your own. They were chosen for being concise, inexpensive (under \$20), and thought provoking.

[Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus How the Jewishness of Jesus can Transform Your Faith](#) by Ann Spangler and Lois Tverberg, Zondervan, 2009

[The Gospel of Luke: The Ignatius Study Guide](#) (Ignatius Catholic Study Bible) by Scott Hahn and Curtis Mitch, Ignatius Press, 2001

[Living Jesus: Learning the Heart of the Gospel](#) by Luke Timothy Johnson, HarperOne, 2000

[The Hidden Power of the Gospels: Four Questions, Four Paths, One Journey](#) by Alexander Shaia and Michelle Gaugy, HarperOne, 2010



Opportunities for Easter Season Ministry and involvement:

St. Vincent DePaul
855 S. 2nd Ave,
Pocatello, ID 83201
(208) 406-1216

Befriender Ministry
Cathey Patschull, 238-8246

Prison Ministry
Liz Johnson 233-1023

Distribute Communion to the Sick

*Assist Clergy Visiting Hospitals/
Administering Rites*

Salvation Army Food Kitchen
400 North 4th Avenue
Pocatello, ID 83201-6311
(208) 232-5318

My Brother's Table
Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall
- Sundays between 1:30 and 2:30pm
For more information or to volunteer,
please email the church at
trinity@trinitypocatello.org.

Successes & Failures of Apostles

The Apostles were called to continue Jesus' ministry on earth through their actions and teachings. Obviously, the Apostles were guaranteed the success of the Church through the words of Jesus... "And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). This "success" however, did not seem like a sure thing...judging by the group of people Jesus chose to be his disciples. Although being sinners (Luke 5:8, 32), the Apostles leave all their possessions in order to follow Jesus and participate in his ministry (Luke 5:11, 28; 18:28-30; 9:10-17). Yet despite their friendship and discipleship with Jesus, they fail to understand the meaning of his suffering (Luke 9:44-45; 18:34), and the need for them to give up their lives for him (Luke 9:23-25). Ultimately, the resurrected Jesus had harsh words for the Apostles since He had to painstakingly explain the meaning and fulfillment of the scriptures (Luke 24:25-27).

Luke further reveals that the Apostles struggled with their human nature, arguing over who is the greatest (Luke 9:46; 22:24). As further examples of their human frailty, Luke describes Judas' betrayal of Jesus (Luke 22:3-5) and Peter's denial (Luke 22:54-62). These stories, in combination with John's description of Thomas' disbelief in the risen Lord (John 20:28), depict a group of Jesus' followers who struggled with what they believed...and they experienced Jesus firsthand!!! But this rag-tag group of followers were indeed successful in building Christ's Church on earth! And they, in turn, have passed that responsibility on to the members of the Church who came after them...you.

- Based on the above examples, can you (or members of your family) draw any parallels between the actions of the early Apostles and your everyday actions??
- How would you change the course of your "journey" based on the stories in Luke's Gospel of Jesus and his disciples?
- Which Apostle(s) do you most identify with? Why?

Turning the World Upside Down



In just a few decades following the Resurrection of Jesus, the earliest Christians were already "turn[ing] the world upside down" (Acts 17:6) with the Good News of Jesus Christ. The dramatic spread of the Gospel and the zeal of the early Christians, even in the face of terrific persecution, were directly due to the cooperation of the believers with the power of the Holy Spirit at work within them. Acts provides an unparalleled glimpse of the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit in the life of a community of committed believers. This reality is as

true today as it was in the opening chapters of Christianity. If we are to rebuild the civilization of love, and usher in the Kingdom of God into the mentality and mores of our world, into the laws and structures of our land, we must actively cooperate with the Spirit's power within us.

Coming Soon!

May 23rd —"Mary" - Jennifer Wise

Each event is on Sunday afternoon from 3:30-6:00 pm at St. Paul's Chapel. Adults only please, refreshments will be served.

Feedback

Please email Bruce at:

HSCC_theology4grownups@q.com

Theology for Grownups Online

Thomas has created a special page for the "Theology for Grown-ups" series online at www.gen215.org/Site/TFG/TFG.html You can find more information of the topics mentioned in this resource, and on upcoming topics.

