

Life Group Notes

Sunday 20th September 2020

Speaker: Andy McCullough

Title: Luke: That you may have certainty

Passage: Luke 1: 1-4

1. Certainty about the story of Jesus.

Luke interviews eyewitnesses to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. These things happened in real history in real places.

2. Certainty about the teaching of Jesus.

50% of Luke is the direct words of Jesus. “delivered” is a technical term for the handing down of oral tradition as authoritative teaching.

3. Certainty about the reasonableness of your faith.

Theophilus has enough at stake that he is prepared to invest heavily to get the facts. They didn't have the luxury of subjectivity – if you're going to get killed for this you need to make sure it's true.

4. Certainty about God's love for the marginalised

“Luke points out that God has a special love for the poor and the marginalized, including the fragile, those on the periphery, the needy and the destitute, the ragged of the world, and the nobodies that predominant society has condemned to social ostracism and the basement of history.” Dario Lopez Rodriguez – Peruvian theologian.

5. Also, certainty about God's love for the wealthy.

Theophilus is a powerful, wealthy guy paying another educated guy to write the book. Luke was a doctor, highly educated.

6. Certainty about God's love for women.

Many of the stories come in male and female pairs – at least 27 of these pairs.

7. Certainty about the power of prayer.

There is a lot of teaching about prayer in Luke.

8. Certainty about the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We meet the Holy Spirit many times in Luke.

9. Certainty about God's ability/ desire to heal.

There are a lot of healing/ miracle stories in Luke. But don't ignore doctors – Luke was a doctor!

10. Certainty that God loves you.

Luke 19:10 “for the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.”

Questions:

1. How important is it that Jesus was a real person in real history?
2. What do you think it was like for Luke to travel around interviewing people about Jesus?
3. How certain are you that God heals the sick?
4. How certain are you about God's love for the marginalised?
5. How certain are you that God loves you?