

WARMING UP...

1. Take some time to familiarise yourself with the context of Luke;

Every birth is a miracle, and every child is a gift from God. Nearly 20 centuries ago, there was a truly miraculous birth; the Son of God was born a man. With divine Father and human mother, Jesus entered history-God in flesh. **THE DAWN HAS COME**: the title of our 6-week series in the book of Luke – Luke affirms Jesus' divinity, but the real emphasis of his book is to show his humanity – Jesus, the Son of God, is also the Son of Man.

As a doctor, Luke was a man of science, and as a Greek, he was a man of detail. It's not surprising, then, that he begins by outlining his extensive research on Jesus by explaining that he is just reporting the facts.

*Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled^[a] among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were **eyewitnesses and servants of the word**. ³ With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ so that you may know the **certainty** of the things you have been taught.* Luke 1:1-4

Luke's heart motive for writing his gospel I believe is captured in this word **certainty**. In a pandemic riddled world that is marked with uncertainty we as disciples of Jesus can have resolute certainty that Jesus is! Jesus is sufficient for today and enough for tomorrow.

An absolute key verse in the whole Gospel is Luke 19:9-10 where Jesus is having dinner with Zacchaeus the tax collector. Jesus said, *Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. **For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.*** Our God has a big family and seeks you out to be a part of it!

In addition, Luke was a close travelling friend of the Apostle Paul in around 60AD, so he could interview other disciples, had access to historical accounts, and was an eyewitness to the birth and growth of the early church. His Gospel and the book of Acts that he authored are reliable, historical documents.

What impressions do you have in beginning to understand the context of Luke?

GOING DEEPER...

In Sunday's message, we worked through Luke 3:1-15; take some time to re-read this passage again.

2. What made John the Baptist great in the eyes of Jesus (Luke 7:28)?
3. There is a strong possibility that John trained (like his father Zechariah) to be a priest in his twenties and was about to launch into the practise of a Priest when he reached 30 (in line with Jewish practises), instead John went rouge. Read verses 3-6 of Luke chapter 3 and **explain what was John's role in the ministry of Jesus?**
4. From Sundays sermon we heard how unusual and even unprecedented it was for Roman soldiers, tax collectors along with Jews and Gentiles all being baptised together. **What does this say about the in breaking of the Kingdom of God?**
5. Read verses 7-9, why do you think John was being so harsh?
6. What does it mean to *produce fruit in keeping with repentance? Pay attention to verses 10-14.*

BRINGING IT HOME...

The big idea from Sunday's message is this; **John did what God set before him.** This truly made John great in the eyes of Jesus?

1. **Call:** For us today what would it look like to fulfil what God is putting before us as disciples of Jesus?
2. **Personal:** What do you feel the Lord is setting before you today?