

The Story of Jesus
(Lesson 24)

Introduction:

1. In 2 Peter 3:18 we are instructed to grow in the knowledge of Christ.
2. Jesus revealed the key to accomplishing this growth in John 5:39.
3. Jesus' biography is found in the Gospels -- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
4. A general knowledge of these books is helpful as we study them.
5. This lesson is a study of the Gospel of Luke.

Discussion:

I. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT JESUS' BIOGRAPHY BY LUKE

A. Concerning the writer's identity, Luke:

1. was a fellow laborer of Paul (Philemon 24)
2. was "*the beloved physician*" (Colossians 4:14)
3. was with Paul near the end of his life (2 Timothy 4:11).

B. The Gospel of Luke seems to have been written primarily for the Greeks.

1. The Lord's genealogy is traced to Adam, the common ancestor of Jews and Gentiles (3:23-38).
2. Greek culture stressed matters such as mental, physical, spiritual, and social development [Luke showed how Jesus grew in these areas -- 2:52].
3. Greeks also considered virtues such as compassion to be very important [Jesus often demonstrated His compassion through His miracles -- 6:17-19; 7:11-16].

C. Luke's purpose for writing is revealed in 1:1-4.

II. OUTLINE

- A. (1:1-4) Introduction
- B. (1:5-80) The birth narrative of John the Baptist
- C. (ch.2) Birth and childhood of Jesus
- D. (ch.3-4:13) Baptism, genealogy, and temptation of Jesus
- E. (4:14-9:50) Jesus' early ministry
- F. (9:51-19:27) The journey to Jerusalem
- G. (19:28-ch.23) The last week and crucifixion of Jesus
- H. (ch.24) The resurrection, appearances, and ascension

III. IMPORTANT POINTS OF INFORMATION REVEALED IN LUKE

A. God considers the unborn to be living children.

1. John was called a "*babe*" while he was in his mother's womb (1:39-44).
2. Jesus was referred to as a "*babe*" after He was born (2:12).
3. The same word is also translated "*infants*" (18:15).

B. Jesus prayed often.

1. He prayed at His baptism (3:21).
2. He prayed alone (5:16; 9:18).
3. He prayed all night before He chose the apostles (6:12).
4. He prayed at the transfiguration (9:28-29).
5. He had prayed before His disciples asked Him to teach them to pray (11:1).
6. He prayed for Peter (22:31-32).
7. He prayed before His crucifixion (22:39-44).
8. He prayed on the cross (23:34).
9. He prayed as He died (23:46).

C. Jesus teaches His followers to pray persistently (11:9-10; 18:1-8).

D. Jesus strongly warns against "*covetousness*" (12:13-21).

E. Jesus will not accept excuses from those who fail to do His will (14:15-24).

F. Gratitude for what Jesus has done should motivate His followers to serve Him (17:11-19).