

The Story Church - 12.4.22

A Physician and the Facts: *Luke's Pursuit of the Truth*

Part 1, Volume 1: *How Can It Be?*

SERIES INTRO: He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: ***Can Christianity be trusted?***

His name was Luke, and after years of researching the extraordinary claims being made by a small, highly motivated sect called *The Way*, he became an unlikely disciple of Jesus. How could a reasonable researcher come to believe that a 1st Century Jewish rabbi who was executed by the Romans is the living Son of God? We'll explore this question and more at The Story Church throughout this 22-week series as we follow Luke's logic from the Christmas manger to Easter's empty tomb.

REFLECTION QUESTION: If someone asked you, ***“What makes you so SURE about Jesus and Christianity?”*** what would you say?

READ: Luke 1:1-4 - Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. 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, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

How would you describe Luke's purpose for writing this book?

How does Luke's use of the word "certainty" to describe Christian faith sit with you? How "certain" are you about Christianity's truth-claims, and why?

HOW CAN WE BE CERTAIN...about LUKE?

READ: Colossians 3:7-14 - Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

READ: 2 Timothy 4:9-13 - Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.

What insights do these passages offer about Luke?

For Christians, what role do facts and historical truth play in our certainty about Jesus?

What other factors may contribute to our certainty about Christianity's Truth claims?

December 2022 Reading Plan

<p><u>Week 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 12/5 - Colossians 4:7-14 (esp. 4:7), Philemon 1:23-24, 2 Timothy 4:9-13 (esp. 4:11) <input type="checkbox"/> 12/6 - Luke 1:1-7 <input type="checkbox"/> 12/7 - 1:8-17 <input type="checkbox"/> 12/8 - 1:18-20 <input type="checkbox"/> 12/9 - 1:21-25 	<p><u>Week 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 12/12 - 1:26-33 <input type="checkbox"/> 12/13 - 1:34-38 <input type="checkbox"/> 12/14 - 1:39-45 <input type="checkbox"/> 12/15 - 1:46-56 <input type="checkbox"/> 12/16 - 1:57-66
<p><u>Week 3</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 12/19 - 1:67-80 <input type="checkbox"/> 12/20 - 2:1-7 <input type="checkbox"/> 12/21 - 2:8-14 <input type="checkbox"/> 12/22 - 2:15-20 <input type="checkbox"/> 12/23 - 2:21-24 	<p><u>Week 4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 12/26 - 2:25-35 <input type="checkbox"/> 12/27 - 2:36-40 <input type="checkbox"/> 12/28 - 2:41-52 <input type="checkbox"/> 12/29 - 3:1-20 <input type="checkbox"/> 12/30 - 3:21-38

