

# LUKE

Only Gospel **author whose identity is certain**. Physician. Traveling companion with Paul. Thus, met and heard from some of the original Disciples (Peter, James, and John – the Jerusalem Council).

**Writing to Gentiles** (but, unlike *Mark*, not to galvanize existing Church; unlike Paul, not to pastor churches; unlike *Matthew*, not to convince Hebrews that their long-awaited Messiah had arrived – thus, Sermon on the Plain, not the Mount; and unlike *John*, not to enter into theological discourse with Greek philosophical community) ... **Primarily to Romans in power**.

Two suggested meanings of “**Theophilus**” (a person – any person intrigued by theology). *Luke/Acts* may have originally been one book. **Acts 1** reads like a sequel. **Luke 24:50** (the Ascension), **Acts 1:1-11** (the beginning of The Way immediately following the Ascension). *Luke* = the Life of Jesus the Messiah; *Acts* = the Birth of The Church.

## Romans Impressed by Power

**BIRTH and RESURRECTION** accounts (**chapters 1 and 2; chapters 24:1-49**) These stories establish Divinely orchestrated bookends that set Jesus apart – thus giving increased credence to all that comes between those stories.

**A Rome-friendly story** (Zaccheus – **19:1-10**)

## PARABLES (Rabbinic method)

“A story (fiction) that conveys a moral truth.”

## God’s Gifts

God’s **Grace**: (**chapter 15** ... the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, the Prodigal Son – **Helmut Thielicke, “the Waiting Father”**)

God’s Providential **Provisions**: (**chapter 12:13-31**)

## Our Responses

Our Response of **Gratitude**: (**chapter 7:43-50** [parable = **41-43**]).

Our Response of **Service**: (**chapter 10:25-37** – very Gentile-friendly)

Our **Love** Response, Self or Neighbor: (**chapter 14:7-14**)