

Life Lessons in Luke

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Riverchase Church of Christ

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders & the sin that so easily entangles.

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

fixing our eyes on Jesus

the pioneer

& perfecter of faith. For

the joy set before him he

endured the cross, scorning its

shame, and sat down at the right

hand of the throne of God... so that

you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Welcome!

- ▶ This study from the gospel of Luke will explore sections of the book, sometimes brief, sometimes lengthy.
- ▶ We will focus on how each section applies and interacts with our lives and world views.
- ▶ Class members will be encouraged to read and meditate on the upcoming section each week.

Our main goal is to notice the “in-breaking of God” into the world through the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. These births come in a miraculous and semi-miraculous fashion, showing the power of God.

- ▶ Our second (primary?) goal is to ask how this message affects and plays out in our lives.

Class Policies and Approach

- ▶ Sit in the middle? Discussion?
- ▶ Interaction with the text and with each other
- ▶ Not a survey! Both in depth and overview
- ▶ Textual, Topical and Systematic Theology
- ▶ Examine our world view in light of Luke
- ▶ Goal: Apply to our lives!

Meditating on the Text

The emphasis is not just on knowledge or information but on how the scripture impacts our lives.

Repeatedly going over the text drilling it into our minds....

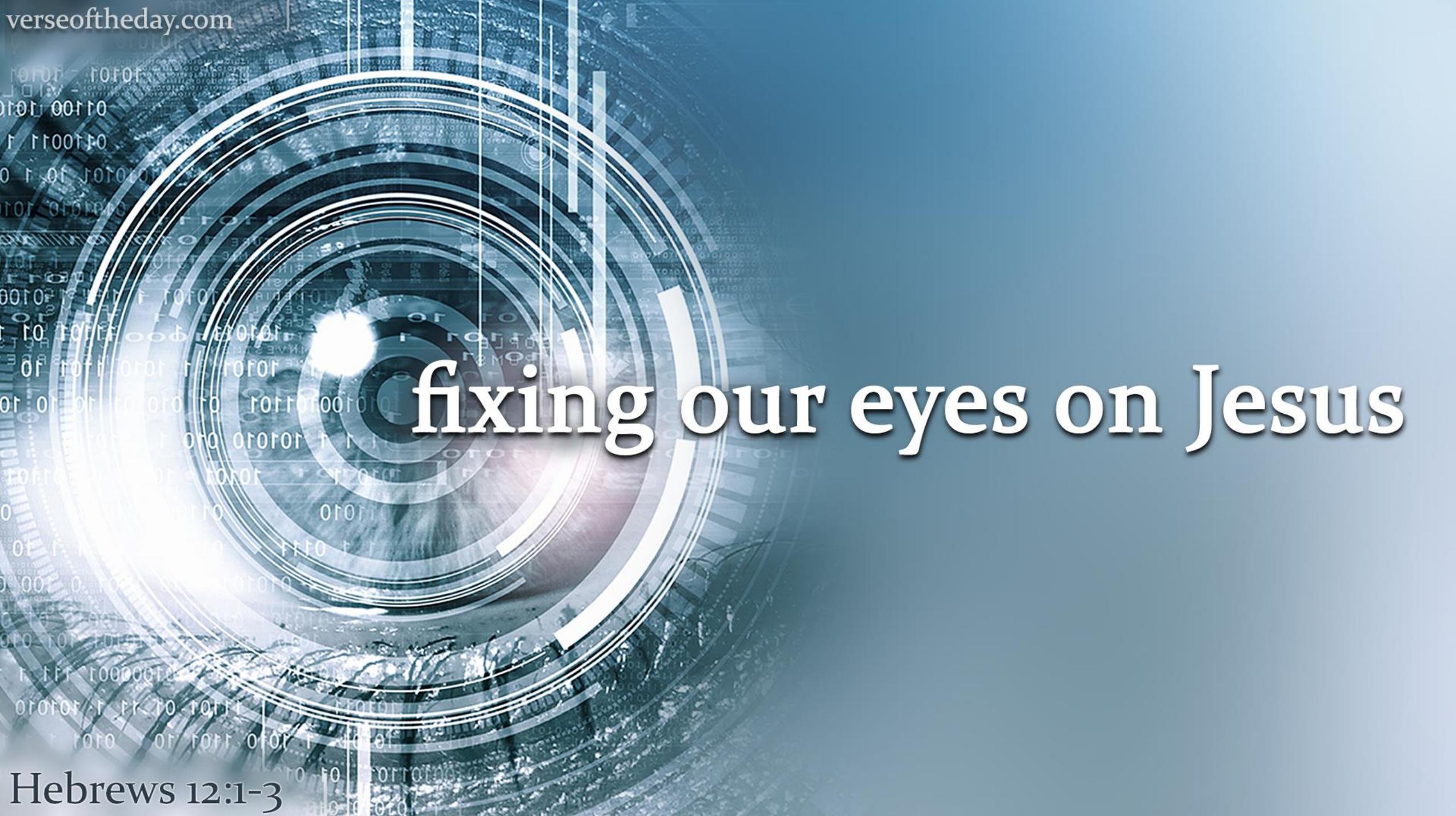
Walt Leaver

- ▶ Homecoming 2021; Bible and note book; Walt Leaver
- ▶ What has God said to you today?
 - ▶ Sin: to avoid or confess
 - ▶ Promise: to claim or wake you up
 - ▶ Example: to follow, positive or negative
 - ▶ Command: to obey
 - ▶ Know: Something I need to know

Phil Ware

- ▶ Read one chapter of a Gospel Each Day
- ▶ Four gospels each quarter
- ▶ God please help me hear Jesus in what I'm reading. Especially help me to hear what Jesus wants me to know, how he wants me to feel, what he wants me to do with what I'm reading, and what of this I need to share with others.

-Phil Ware



fixing our eyes on Jesus

Hebrews 12:1-3

Thought Questions

- ▶ What is a “miracle”?
- ▶ Does God insert Himself into the world today?
- ▶ Can God perform miracles today?
- ▶ Does God perform miracles today?
- ▶ Has God ever called you to a specific task?

Luke 1:1-4 (NIV) Introduction Ref—Ac 1:1

1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled 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 1:5-10 (NIV)

The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

⁵ In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron.

⁶ Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷ But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

⁸ Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

Luke 1:11-17 (NIV)

¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶ He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Luke 1:21-25 (NIV)

²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. ²² When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

²³ When his time of service was completed, he returned home.

²⁴ After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵ “The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

Luke 1:26-33 (NIV)

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Luke 1:34-38 (NIV)

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Central Thought of Luke

- ▶ Jesus is the Son of God, the promised *Messiah*.
- ▶ This is repeatedly demonstrated in miraculous ways.
- ▶ Jesus interacts with the world and the people.

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Prologue 1:1-4

- ▶ Luke
- ▶ Doctor
- ▶ Acts
- ▶ Orderly Account
 - ▶ How “orderly” or systematic are you?
- ▶ More about Luke and the features of the gospel as we go along.

Time period from last revelation until the birth of Jesus

- ▶ United Kingdom
- ▶ Divided Kingdom
- ▶ Assyrian Captivity
- ▶ Babylonian Captivity
- ▶ Roman Occupation
- ▶ Rise of the synagogue
- ▶ 600 years of silence...(Intertestamental period)

Background: Messianic Expectation

- ▶ Complex
- ▶ Restoration of Physical and Political Israel
- ▶ Current political situation in Israel, Roman Control
- ▶ One like Elijah

Some interesting questions...

- ▶ Have you gone through the agony of wanting to have children but could not?
- ▶ Was it easy or hard for you to have children?
- ▶ What would you say if you found out / you / your wife was pregnant today?
 - ▶ Impossible!!!
 - ▶ Happy? Sad?
 - ▶ Wonderful!!!
 - ▶ Oh, No!
- ▶ Have you heard the phrase, the miracle of birth?

Outline of Luke

- ▶ The miraculous in-breaking of God in history through Jesus (Birth and Call of Jesus and John)
- ▶ The initiation of the ministry of John and Jesus
- ▶ The teachings of Jesus
- ▶ Conflict with the religious authorities
- ▶ Death of Jesus
- ▶ Resurrection of Jesus

Outline of Chapter 1

- ▶ Intro 1-4
- ▶ Appearance to Zechariah: John the Baptist 1:5-24
- ▶ Birth of Jesus foretold, announcement to Mary 1:26-38
- ▶ Mary Visits Elizabeth 1:39-45
- ▶ Mary's Song 1:46-56
- ▶ Zechariah's Song 1:57-79
- ▶ Growth of John the Baptist 80

The Call of Zechariah, Elizabeth and Mary

- ▶ Thought Question: What do Isaiah 6 and Luke 1 have in common?

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The Announcement of John's Birth

- ▶ Character of Zechariah and Elizabeth
 - ▶ Wouldn't you like to describe you and your wife? Your children?
- ▶ Zechariah's service as priest
- ▶ Appearance of an Angel
 - ▶ Wow! What is the reaction when people see an angel?
- ▶ How Old is "very old"???
- ▶ Announcement
 - ▶ Discussion—What if you heard this?
- ▶ Reaction: Questioning! Do you blame Zechariah!
- ▶ Elizabeth in Seclusion
- ▶ 'John', which means 'God is gracious'

Second Announcement and Calling of Mary

- ▶ *Jesus, which is the equivalent of Heb. 'Joshua' and means 'Savior'*

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Your Calling

- ▶ Has God ever called you to some specific task? How did / does that calling come?
- ▶ Connection to Isaiah 6 and other Old Testament callings
- ▶ "Don't be afraid to be who God has called you to be—it may be someone hated; it may be someone anonymous. You may lose in the eyes of the world, but you will be rewarded when our Lord calls your name, 'Well done, my beloved one.'" Jessica Hooten Wilson (5.27.22) via Chuck Webster, Facebook