

Recap of 11/29/20 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Luke 1:1-25):

1. *Luke, a Gentile doctor and historian carefully researched the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Using eyewitnesses and other sources, he wrote a orderly account which we call the Gospel of Luke (as well as the Gospel of Luke).*
2. *Luke wrote to someone he calls Theophilus ("a lover of God"), probably a nobleman or official with the purpose of confirming to him the things he had learned about Jesus Christ.*
3. *Concerning the reliability of Luke's historical account Scottish scholar Sir William Mitchell Ramsay writes: "The author of Acts [and thereby of the Gospel of Luke] is not to be regarded as the author of historical romance, legend, or third- or second-rate history. Rather he is the writer of an historical work of the highest order."*
4. *Luke begins, not with the birth of Jesus, but with the announcement of the coming birth of John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Messiah. Zechariah and Elizabeth, the parents of John, are a godly, priestly couple who are childless and advance in years. The announcement of Jesus' coming into this world is preceded by a story of disappointment and pain.*
5. *"Yet godliness is no guarantee against sorrow or against the disappointment of human hopes, and these pious souls were saddened because their home was childless. This trial was particularly great among people who regarded childlessness as a sign of divine displeasure, and it was even more distressing to the hearts of the faithful who were yearning for the birth of the promised Messiah."*
(Wm. Erdman)
6. *"But, as experience has often proved, the children of God do no necessarily escape the trials and tribulations of this earth life." (Luck)*
7. *How to deal with disappointment: don't stop praying; don't stop serving; focus on God's power, not our limitations; be faithful, walking by faith not by sight.*
-*"Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always." (1 Chronicles 16:11)*