

*the Gospel of Luke...*

*LK 1: Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. <sup>2</sup> They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. <sup>3</sup> Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.*

*we have already used this as our main text in the Christmas story...so we will pick it up from there...first a little about this Gospel writer. Everyone has a journey that makes up their story...we are story formed people and every story and journey has similarities to our own...*

**So let go back to Mary for a second...Like Mary did after being informed that the humanly impossible is easily possible with God.. ...**

*Luke 1: <sup>37</sup> For the word of God will never fail. ”. ”*

*LK 1 <sup>46</sup> Mary responded, “Oh, how my soul praises the Lord. <sup>47</sup> How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!*

*<sup>48</sup> For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, and from now on all generations will call me blessed. <sup>49</sup> For the Mighty One is holy, and he has done great things for me. <sup>50</sup> He shows mercy from generation to generation to all who fear him... **that is us***

**Now walking out that truth in your present life...before it become History...is a whole other animal. No one merely goes through the motions of following God... it cost us to follow God...Mary like you and me, would not grasp fully what Jesus was all about... and we will witness this today as we pick up the story eight days after the birth of Jesus...normally a Jewish woman would be in seclusion for 40 days after a child is born. But because Jesus was her firstborn son, he would be brought to the Temple to be offered to God and experience his circumscion....**

*LK 2:21* Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived. **Unless Jesus had been circumcised, he could not have been admitted to any synagogue or to the temple. He would have had no access to the people, and could not have been regarded as the Messiah.**

*40 days later... LK 2:22* Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> The law of the Lord says, "If a woman's first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the LORD."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>24</sup> So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord—"either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

- **Being a first-born male, present him to the Lord." As one claimed as "holy to the Lord," or set apart to sacred uses, in memory of the deliverance of the first-born of Israel from destruction in Egypt, through the sprinkling of blood (Ex 13:2).**

<sup>1</sup>*EX13:1* Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Dedicate to me every firstborn among the Israelites. The first offspring to be born, of both humans and animals, belongs to me."

- **It was the mother only who needed purifying from the legal uncleanness of childbearing. "The days" of this purification for a male child were forty in all (Le 12:2, 4), on the 40<sup>th</sup> day also the mother was required to offer a lamb for a burnt offering, and a turtle dove or a young pigeon for a sin offering. If she could not afford a lamb, the mother had to bring another turtle dove or young pigeon;**
- **It was in obedience to this "law of Moses," that the Virgin presented her babe unto the Lord, "in the east gate of the court called Nicanor's Gate, where she herself would be sprinkled by the priest with the blood of her sacrifice"**

*Luke 2:25* At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him <sup>26</sup> and had revealed to him that

he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, <sup>28</sup> Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup> "Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. <sup>30</sup> I have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared for all people. <sup>32</sup> He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!"

<sup>33</sup> Jesus' parents were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. <sup>35</sup> As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul."

- **Amazed...Marveled or wondered...they did not understand**

*This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise.*

- **So much can be said about these words! It' about pulling some people downward spiritually, economically, politically, and socially while raising or lifting up others. It harkens back to the language in another part of Mary's declaration in Luke 1:**

*NIV LK 1:51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. LK 1:52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. LK 1:53 He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty*

**Here, the poor, the hungry, those whom the present proud unjust system had reduced to tears, and those labelled trouble-makers, misfits, for speaking out against injustice are being lifted up in Jesus'. And those powerful in the present system will be brought to justice and brought down; those well-fed and do nothing for the hungry; those rejoicing in**

their great wealth, and those whom the system praised would now be brought back down.

All of these groups would experience a fall from their places of power as the God of all power would bring Justice, mercy and salvation to those who were previously excluded ...

**Then he says ...“A sword will pierce your own soul Too.” her heart will be broken...the pain of a sword-thrust through your heart.” In other words, Mary, there will be great joy but there will also be great pain.**

**I can tell you this: being the mother of Jesus must have been a complicated experience.** From the beginning, she knows that her son is special – set apart for God’s holy work. Her experience – angels visiting, singing his praises – has to prove to her that God is at work in this child of hers. Her son is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is the hope that Mary and her people had been waiting for – counting on – for generations. She must’ve celebrated all of that.

And, yet, his life will not be easy – he will have powerful enemies, will experience rejection, persecution, finally arrested, beaten, and crucified.

and Mary will be alive to follow her son’s journey throughout his life, she must have begun to worry for his safety... **Jesus was just 48 days old..She must have wondered when that sword would show up to pierce her heart.**

But there is more...to be amazed by...

*<sup>36</sup> Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. <sup>37</sup> Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four.<sup>[c]</sup> She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. <sup>38</sup> She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She*

talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

**Luke skips...the visit of the Maji two years later, the slaughter of the boys of Bethlehem, the flight to Egypt for a couple years...and continues the narrative with the move to their home town of Nazareth...He apparently did not feel it was important for Theophilus to get side swiped by Roman political stuff...regarding Herod..**

*<sup>39</sup> When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> There the child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God's favor was on him.*

**The first time luke records the sword piercing Mary's soul... When he was twelve...And Jesus remained behind in the Temple for 3 days alone**

*LK 2: <sup>41</sup> Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. <sup>42</sup> When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual. <sup>43</sup> After the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't miss him at first, <sup>44</sup> because they assumed he was among the other travelers. But when he didn't show up that evening, they started looking for him among their relatives and friends.*

*<sup>45</sup> When they couldn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there. <sup>46</sup> Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions. <sup>47</sup> All who heard him were **amazed** at his understanding and his answers.*

*<sup>48</sup> His parents didn't know what to think. "Son," his mother said to him, "why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere." <sup>49</sup> "But why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> **But they didn't understand what***

**he meant.** <sup>51</sup> *Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And his mother stored all these things in her heart.*

<sup>52</sup> *Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.*

**It must have been somewhat embarrassing to Mary to tell this story to Luke... How could they only notice that he was not amongst them after three days? A sword pierced her soul God must have kept them from knowing.**

- **Mary reprimanded Jesus and said, ‘why have you treated us like this? Here your father and I have been anxiously looking for you, distressed and tormented.’ How quick we are to blame others, when we mess up..yet God is always involved..**

**When Jesus disappeared the second time, it must have pierced Mary’s heart. After his baptism, He was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted of the devil for 40 days.**

*Luke 4:1 Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where he was tempted by the devil for forty days.*

- **Imagine if your son just disappears for 40 days!** How would you respond to that? No one knew where he was. And what would you do if you knew he was being tempted/ beat up by the devil all that time? Your heart would be pierced also.

**Then Mary saw how Jesus was rejected in His own hometown, Nazareth, the first time He preached. They wanted to kill him by throwing Him off the high cliff above the town. But Jesus passed through them and escaped.**

*Luke 4: 16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read,*

## When he was done speaking...

*28 All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. 30 But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.*

## Then a year and a half into his ministry at Capernaum...she loved Jesus, followed Jesus but did not understand Jesus...like us

*MK 3: 20 One time Jesus entered a house, and the crowds began to gather again. Soon he and his disciples couldn't even find time to eat. 21 When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him away. "He's out of his mind," they said.*

- **“Take him away”... means forcibly take him home...**
- **Why? “Out of his Mind” or delusional...trashing the family reputation... the religious leaders were his enemies and he is not safe...He is healing on the sabbath, calling the religious leaders names...along with demons calling him the Son of God...**
- **And he left a perfectly good career as a carpenter... ..**

**So Mary had to adjust her expectations of what it meant that Jesus was Messiah. Instead of rescuing his people by destroying their enemies, he said crazy things like “love your enemies.” she like us has the propensity to judge the Kingdom of God methodology...as it plays out on the earth...as to whether it is good or not...working or not!**

**All of these things did not seem to concern Jesus nor adjust his behavior...he must be crazy**

**So when they arrive...they want send a message to come out...it will make it much easier to grab him and take him home**

*MK 3: 31 Then Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him. They stood outside and sent word for him to come out and talk with them.*

<sup>32</sup> *There was a crowd sitting around Jesus, and someone said, “Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you.”* <sup>33</sup> *Jesus replied, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?”* <sup>34</sup> *Then he looked at those around him and said, “Look, these are my mother and brothers.”* <sup>35</sup> *Anyone who does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.*

- **Jesus statements about the family has enormous repercussions for the way we live out our family commitments and the way we should minister to others. He redefines family in a much broader context...**
- **Jesus defines family as those who not limited to a blood or biological relationship but those who share the same spiritual family.**
- **His eternal family are these:**

*<sup>1</sup> John 4:15 All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God. <sup>16</sup> We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love....*

*But there is more <sup>1JN 3:1</sup> See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don’t recognize that we are God’s children because they don’t know him. <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, we are already God’s children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for **we will see him as he really is...**.....Someday we will understand who Jesus is...we are still learning!! So was Mary and His brothers!*

**So what can we take away...One ...God has always been comfortable with making people uncomfortable...**

- **Two When God blesses you your life becomes more complicated!!!** Mary called herself blessed, and all generations do call her that
- **We tend to think that as we are blessed by God our life becomes easier...and more comfortable...but that is not true...it becomes richer yes...but more complicated. Just as when we make poor choices our**



- lives become more negatively complicated**...when we follow God our lives become more complicated...but in a growing and blessing way...
- Think about it... If you get married that is a blessing...but your life becomes more complicated If you have children...that is a blessing but your life becomes more complicated...every step of the way there are new complications...
  - If you go to school that is a blessing...but your life becomes more complicated...If you get a promotion that is a blessing...but your life becomes more complicated
  - If you get sober that is a blessing...but your life becomes more complicated...If you follow Jesus that is a blessing... but your life becomes more complicated
  - If you serve others that is a blessing...but your life becomes more complicated...**there is no such thing as blessing without complication...get used to it...embrace it...grow from it...enjoy it...expect complications!!**...
  - **One of the reasons we draw back ...is because of complications and pain...because we think that is bad...no-no-no that is normal...in fact it is evidence you are moving forward...**
  - **Lastly, We are not to be obsessed with those who oppose us...we are to be obsessed with Jesus. If we are following Him then He will handle those who oppose us.**
  - HIS plans will take place in HIS ways in HIS time...and that I am not the one who gets to direct His will...but rather participate in it!
  - When things seem most out of control...He is most in control! We cannot proclaim to be believers in the Sovereignty of God and then freak out at the first sign of the wheels coming off!
  - Understand this...no matter what happens...no matter WHAT happens...God is still God...He still reigns...He is not worried...we shouldn't be either! end

