

Lecture 34 – Themes of Luke (cont.)

He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. “Where is your faith?” he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, “Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.” Luke 8:25 (NIV)

Key Terms

Galilee, Herod, Good Samaritan

Objectives

- *To apply the text to answer the question, “Who is this?” (referring to Jesus)
- *To describe both the sense in which different groups asked this question, and how this might apply to ministry today.

Lead Questions

- *How is Jesus’ ministry described as universal in Luke’s Gospel? How is it limited?

Themes of Luke (cont.)**IV. Ministry in Galilee, Ch. 4-9, Great Question Lingered Over Whole Section Is, “Who Is This?”**

- A. 5:20, Pharisees, “Who is this who blasphemes?”
- B. 7:16, People, “A great prophet” - Three great prophets of OT - Moses, Elijah, Elisha
- C. 7:39-49, Pharisees, “If he were a prophet, he would know...”
- D. 8:22-25, Disciples, “Who is this who commands wind and waves?”
- E. 9:9, Herod, “Who is this about whom I hear?”
- F. 9:20, Jesus, “Who am I?”
 1. Answer 1: “A prophet.” But Jesus is more than a prophet, more than John (Luke 3:15-17)
 2. Answer 2: “The Christ of God”
 3. Answer 3, “This is my Son, listen to him.” (9:35)
But do they listen? 9:44-45

V. Journey to Jerusalem, Ch. 9-19 (Theme of Suffering Messiah)

- A. Dispute regarding greatness (9:46-48)
- B. Response to Samaritan opposition
 - Call down fire (9:51-56)? The parable of the Good Samaritan is partly an answer to question, “How shall we regard our enemies?”
- C. Universal scope of ministry - Anyone can be a disciple.
 1. Episodes feature all sorts of people.
 - a. Interest in women
 - b. Interest in rich and poor
 2. All kinds of people receive miracles.
 3. Gentiles as well as Jews. Note: probable Gentile audience for Luke (cf. Theophilus)
- D. Reversal theme, types of reversal
 1. He will bring down rulers, lift up the humble, Luke 1-4
 2. Reversal upon reversal in Luke 14-15
 3. Who is justified? See Luke 18
 4. Zaccheus: No preference for the poor or the rich, Luke 19
- E. Repeated themes:
 1. With religious leaders
 2. With crowds
 3. With disciples: the nature of discipleship, especially prayer, money, associations
- F. The situation at the close of the journey

G. Jesus and the Jewish leaders, Ch. 9 - 19

1. Their essential, fatal flaw is self-righteousness (Luke 5:32, 15:7, 18:9)
2. They are not “acutely confrontational” in Luke, and grant some respect.
3. Not everyone shows an equal level of hostility. Prepares for conversions in Acts.

In what ways are you like the Jewish leaders? How are you hostile toward the message of the Gospel? What is God’s response to this, from within the context of Luke?