

Character Study: The Perfect Man [Luke 2.12, 21, 27, 40-52; 3.22-23; 5.16; 6.12; 24.13-19, 46-53]

- Studying Christ in Luke? **Titles.** Luke 1 = Jesus. Great. Son of Highest. Holy Thing. Son of God. Mother of my Lord!
- **Types** to follow: *Four living creatures* [Eze. 1]. *Likeness* of a man. Each had *four faces*. Not sovereignty of lion, or service of ox, or soaring of eagle but *sympathy* of a **man**.
- *Four colours* in Tabernacle [purple, scarlet, blue, white]. *Four* “behold” statements. 1. Behold thy King [Zech. 9]. 2. Behold my Servant whom I *uphold* [Isa. 42]. 3. Behold the Man [Zech. 6]. 4. Behold your God! [Isa. 40]

His Childhood

- **Progress.** Luke speaks of a: *babe* [1 day, 2.12], *child* [8 days, 2.21, 40 days, 2.27] and a *youth* [*pais*, 12 years, 2.43]. At *30 years of age*, He began to teach, 3.23 [RV]. Contrast Adam. He never knew these experiences.
- Christ can identify with us. He has touched the full range of human experience. He **knows!**
- **Two** progress reports. 2.40: From infancy to 12. *Full [not filled] of wisdom*, appropriate to each age.
- 2.52: From 12-30. He ‘increased in wisdom’. *As He grew physically, He displayed [and others perceived] an increasing amount of wisdom appropriate to that age.*
- ‘increased in favour’ = moment by moment He brought increasing delight to His Father. Culminates in **3.22**.
- **Priority.** 12 in temple – *Jewish* reckoning, entering *adult life*. One single portrait of His childhood. Displayed full wisdom, fitting for 12. Others had returned [fulfilled 7 days]. He remained. Desire for the things of God.
- *Found* in the temple. His priority in life was His Father’s business [or house].

His Communion

- x14 examples. Dependent man. Fragrance of *incense* ascends through the gospel [priests, temple].
- **Private** Prayer [5.16]. After a long day in service. Contact with needs [sorrows] sinners. Required a change of atmosphere! Presence of his Father. Refreshed soul. *Renews* spiritual energy. *Cleanses* our defilement [not His].
- **Persevering** Prayer [6.12]. Choice of disciples [and Sermon on Mount]. Daily communications [Isa. 50].

His Character

- **Purity.** Luke = *fine white [smooth] linen*. ‘Gorgeous robe’. *Seven-fold* witness to His holiness. Angel. Demon. Disciple. Roman Governor. King [Herod Antipas]. Thief. Soldier [Centurion].
- **Pity.** Had feelings proper to perfect manhood. Emphasis on *compassion* for *needy* and *poor*.
- Widow of Nain [7]. *Only* son. *Much* people. He saw *her*. [Deeply] moved *compassion*. *Weep* not. *Delivered*.
- Luke 24. “went with them” – so absorbed in discussion [despair], unconscious of the Lord’s presence with them. v.19: “What things?” He desires the unburdening of their hearts to Him. *Psalm 62.8: “Trust in him at all times; ye people, Pour out [vv.19-24!] your heart before him: God is a refuge for us.”*
- *Soltau: His humanity is marked by compassion and tenderness. What does this mean for us? If we are receiving of His Spirit, then we are to reproduce similar lives amongst the sorrow-stricken and heavy-laden.*

His Commission

- Luke compresses 40 days into **one** day, “first day of the week” [v.1]. Cf. v.13, 33, 36, 50. Dramatic. A **new** dawn [beginning]. “All that Jesus *began* both to do and teach” [Acts 1]. Left us a work to continue [v.47]. “*Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*”
- **Working.** And endued with power from on high. Indwelling Spirit. No excuses!
- **Worshipping** [v.52]. Appreciation of Christ [His Person]. As *short* as a sentence [Thomas] or *long* as a lifetime.
- **Rejoicing** [vv.52-53]. Change from “sad” [v.17]! Realisation of a risen Christ. Joy in promise of return [Acts 1.11].