

“Jesus Begins His Ministry: Preaching the Kingdom”

From Elder John Stoos

Based on Luke 3:23; 4:14-44; & Isaiah 61

Dr. Luke’s Prologue for His Orderly Account

“Behold, I send My messenger and he will prepare the way before me” Malachi 3:1

Dedication to Theophilus Luke 1:1-4

Time Set: “There was in the days of King Herod...” Luke 1:5

John’s birth announced by Gabriel Luke 1:5-25

Jesus’ birth announced by Gabriel Luke 1:26-56

John is born Luke 1:57-79

Jesus is born Luke 2:1-7

John is circumcised Luke 1:59-66

Jesus is circumcised Luke 2:21

John grows and is strong in spirit Luke 1:80

Jesus grows in wisdom and strength Luke 2:39-51

-- **Angels Proclaim Jesus & His Kingdom** Luke 2:8-20

-- **Saints testify that God is faithful**

[Elizabeth 1:39-45- Mary 1:46-56 –Zacharias 1:67-79 –
Shepherds 2:15-20-Simeon 2:25-35-Anna 2:36-38]

Jesus presented at Temple

as Son of God and Son of Man Luke 2:22-38

Time Set: “Now in the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...” Luke 3:1, 2

John told to prepare the way: Luke 3:3-6

Jesus begins His ministry: Luke 3:23

John baptizes the people Luke 3:7-20

Jesus is Baptized by John Luke 3:21

John is arrested by Herod Luke 3:18-20

Jesus is tempted by Satan Luke 4:1-13

-- **John proclaims Jesus and His Kingdom** Luke 3:7-20

-- **The Father testifies of His Beloved Son** Luke 3:21, 22

Jesus presented in the genealogy

as the Son of God and Son of Man Luke 3:23-38

Jesus Begin His Ministry Luke 3:23 & 4:14

Showing the Authority of Jesus as He begins His Ministry

a chiasmic or focused outline of Luke 4:14-44

A Jesus teaches in the synagogue, gloried by all: 4:14 "Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. 15 And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all."

B Jesus sent to heal the sick: 4:16 "So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. 17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." 20 Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

C People are amazed: 4:22 "So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

D "brood of vipers" rebuked: 4:23 "He said to them, "You will surely say this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in Your country.' " 24 Then He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country. 25 But I tell you truly, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a great famine throughout all the land; 26 but to none of them was Elijah sent except to Zarephath, in the region of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. 27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." 28 So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, 29 and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. 30 Then passing through the midst of them, He went His way."

E Word of Jesus has authority! 4:31 "Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and was teaching them on the Sabbaths. 32 And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority."

D Demons rebuked: 4:33 "Now in the synagogue there was a man who had a spirit of an unclean demon. And he cried out with a loud voice, 34 saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!" 35 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet, and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him in their midst, it came out of him and did not hurt him."

C People are amazed: 4:36 "Then they were all amazed and spoke among themselves, saying, "What a word this is! For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out." 37 And the report about Him went out into every place in the surrounding region."

B Jesus heals the sick: 4:38 "Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon's house. But Simon's wife's mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. 39 So He stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them. 40 When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them. 41 And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of God!" And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ.

A Jesus teaches in the synagogues, sought by all: 4:42 Now when it was day, He departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; 43 but He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent." 44 And He was preaching in the synagogues of Galilee.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah Chapter 61

1 "The Spirit of Jehovah God is upon Me, Because Jehovah has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of Jehovah, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, 3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of Jehovah, that He may be glorified."

4 And they shall rebuild the old ruins, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations. 5 Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, And the sons of the foreigner Shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. 6 But you shall be named the priests of Jehovah, They shall call you the servants of our God. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, And in their glory you shall boast. 7 Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, And instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; Everlasting joy shall be theirs. 8 "For I, Jehovah, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth, And will make with them an everlasting covenant. 9 Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, And their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, That they are the posterity whom Jehovah has blessed."

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its bud, As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, So Jehovah God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations."

“Jesus Begins His Ministry: Preaching the Kingdom of God”

We continue our series on the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts:

This will take some time because these two books comprise over one-quarter of what is written in the New Testament! [About 28%!]

Last week we looked at John the Baptist preaching the baptism of repentance to make straight paths for the coming of the Lord and His Kingdom!

This week we come to Jesus beginning His ministry: Proclaiming that the Kingdom of God is at hand!

As we saw last week Luke and Acts are all about the coming of the Kingdom, from the Angel Gabriel’s proclamations to Paul’s final actions in Rome in Acts 28.

We now move into the 2nd major section of the Gospel of Luke, commonly referred to as His Galilean ministry: From chapter four through chapter nine. In chapter nine, Jesus will set His face toward Jerusalem and from chapter 19 to 24 we have the events during the final week leading up to His victory over sin & death!

[take moment to discuss the prologue chart and introduce the chiasmic outline]

As we come to the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus I believe Luke uses this literary structure to focus on this simple truth: The words and teachings of Christ come with authority!

[like a diamond that can be admired in various ways from many different angles!]

- **So if we can see from this outline that Luke wants us to focus on the concept of Jesus having authority: Just what does that mean?**

What does it mean for someone or something to have authority?

- **Again, when we read that “His word was with authority” in verse 32, it is not in isolation: The word authority appears in the New Testament alone over 60 times.**

Luke himself will illustrate how important understanding authority is in Chapter seven when the Centurion comes wanting Jesus to heal his servant: He is shocked when Jesus offers to come to his house and tells Jesus to simply speak the word, saying:

Luke 7:8 “For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it.”
9 When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"

The military gives us a good picture of how authority works, but we have other examples from our everyday lives:

- **A properly trained child responding to their parent:**
 - **If they do not, we have not trained them in something Jesus said was vital for faith!**
 - **Someone else speaking the same words would get a different response**
- **If you have a job, you listen and respond to a boss much differently than you would a co-worker**
 - **People who don't have a real problem holding a good job!**
 - **Again, parents, much better if children learn this early!**
- **How about when we see that red light coming from the car following us?**
 - **We must be careful that we do not demonstrate rank hypocrisy here: Being polite to the officer, and then going home and saying, “some pig gave me a ticket!”**
 - **-Again, a reminder to parents & all those who promise at our baptisms to assist with the raising of our covenant children, we are ALWAYS training our children, for good or ill!**

So there we have some human examples of authority:

- **Now we must consider why Luke wants us to focus on Jesus as one who teaches with authority?**
- **Why did Jesus say he had not seen such “faith” in all of Israel when the Centurion demonstrated that he understood simple authority?**

How much authority does Jesus have?

Everyone “knows” the answer: We read the Great Commission almost EVERY week here at Church of the King!

- **The question is, do we, like that faithful Centurion, think about what it means?**
- **What DOES it mean for Jesus to have ALL authority in heaven and on earth?**
- **How should it impact our lives?**

Does it involve the sun coming up tomorrow morning? YES, because it will NOT without Jesus saying that it should!

- **That promise was given thousands of years ago and we should be thankful each and EVERY day that God is faithful.... And does not get “bored” with His creation!**

Or how about this as an authority question:

Does two plus two equal four??

- **Not without Jesus determining that it does!**

Jesus said that He had the authority or power to lay down His life and the authority to take it back up: Again, we all know this!

- **Does Jesus have the authority to appoint the day and hour of our deaths?**
- **Does it change how we approach life and death when we understand that He does?**
- **That should include our individual lives or national events like we saw this week**

AND the big question we come face to face with each time we gather for Covenant Renewal Worship:

- **How do I know that I am saved?**

- **Do I believe that Jesus has the power and authority to take a depraved sinner like me and give me new life?**
- **Should I EVER think that I play even the smallest part in making this happen?**
 - **Remember those stones!**
 - **Remembering our baptism – God’s promise!**

BUT, if we believe that our salvation is ALL from God, then what about John’s demands last week that we show some true fruit of repentance?

- **If we try to put our created minds around all that the Creator has done, we might not be able to fully understand or explain how all this works.**
- **BUT the Bible does not leave us confused: Jesus said that His sheep hear His voice:**

Much that the Holy Spirit will teach us in Luke and Acts is how some hear Jesus and some do not:

Some bear the fruit of repentance and others reject the King of Glory and His Kingdom.

- **Next week we will see Jesus rejected by those who knew Him in Nazareth.**

They had their own idea of what the Messiah must do, seriously misreading the passage from the Prophet Isaiah we read this morning.

They were not willing to bow the knee to the Lord who had come:

- **They rejected His authority!**

We will also learn that those who hear His voice respond and obey:

- **Have you heard the Shepherd’s voice?**
- **If you have then, you are one of His sheep.**
- **If you think you have not, or have any doubts – Then simply ask for His mercy – saying with that desperate father – I believe, help thou my unbelief!”**

As we proceed through the Gospel of Luke we will see the authority of Jesus demonstrated in many ways and see how various people react:

- **We will see how it captivates His disciples and followers.**
- **We will see how it intoxicates the crowds**
- **We will see how it confounds His enemies.**

Here at Church of the King, we want to be those who hear the Savior's voice! Those who listen and obey our Lord and Savior:

Think about it this way:

How did you respond when reading the Law of God this morning?

- **Was it boring?**
- **Did you think, why do we need all these rules and regulations?**
- **OR did you rejoice as we reviewed the very heart of the Kingdom?**

That's right: The very HEART of the Kingdom!

Mark teaches us the importance of this lesson when one of the religious leaders of that day comes to Jesus asking an honest question, willing to listen to what the Lord had to say:

Mark 12:28 "Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" 29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

- **Jesus has given the summary of the very Law we read this morning as the answer and listen carefully to what this Scribe understands Him to be saying:**

32 "So the scribe said to Him, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. 33 And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

- **The Scribe does not simply repeat what Jesus said – but thinks through what the proper application would be to his life – willing to bow to His authority and give up his traditions.**

34 Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

- **It is NOT a question of what we bring to God, but how we respond to His voice: That voice of authority.**

We will be singing a new hymn as our hymn of praise this morning and it rightly teaches how we MUST understand that our salvation is FIRST, LAST and ALWAYS in the hands of Jesus:

- **Jesus, who “comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain.”**
- **And understanding His great love and power we should heartily sing in adoration, “High on thine eternal throne; Savior, take the power and glory, claim the Kingdom as Thine own, Alleluia, alleluia, ALLELUIA! Thou shall reign, and Thou alone!**
- **Let us rise and worship our Risen and Reigning Savior!**

Communion meditation:

Hebrews 4: “1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

Let us rise and give our confession of faith, not just with our minds & lips, but with our hearts and souls with song and in faith!

Hebrews 4 is a story of REST:

3 For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,' " although the works were finished from the foundation of the world....

-- Thoughts on rest and leavened bread...

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. 9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. 10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

➤ We come to this table with the symbols of victory AND rest:

11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. 14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.