

The Gospel of Luke

To Seek and Save the Lost

Luke 19:10

1. The Consistent Ministry of Jesus

Jesus was primarily a preacher, and His ministry was marked by the priority of preaching and teaching about the kingdom of God (Luke 4:43-44). He ate with Jews, samaritans (John 4:40-43), pharisees (Luke 7:36; 14:1), and tax collectors (Luke 5:29), all while indiscriminately healing massive numbers of people who came to Him (Luke 4:40; 5:15; 6:17-18). He was committed to preaching the good news to all people (Luke 19:10; Matt. 28:19-20).

2. The Consistent Message of Jesus

The healed would get sick again and the resurrected would die again, but the forgiven would never be lost again. Those who would enjoy the everlasting effect of His ministry are not those who merely were blessed by His miracles, but those who responded to His teaching (Luke 8:21; John 6:26). The miracles of His ministry were intended to facilitate the proclamation of His message and to authenticate His power to grant God's forgiveness of sins (Luke 5:24-25; John 9:33). The primary message of Jesus is the same message that the apostles continued to preach after His resurrection (Mark 1:15; Luke 19:10; John 11:25-26; 14:1-6; Acts 2:22-24, 36-42; 1 Cor. 2:2).

3. The Consistent Responses of the People

A. Resistant

This is the reaction embodied and exemplified by the pharisees and most of the rest of the religious leadership. Their knowledge of the Scriptures and the evidence by the teaching and miracles of Jesus were sufficient to convince them of the truth (John 3:1-2), but instead they refused to believe (Matt 12:38; 16:1; cf. John 11:48) and sought to slander (Matt. 9:33-34) and kill Jesus (Matt 12:14; 26:4).

B. Reluctant

These were the religiously affected who had come to a proper understanding of Jesus and His message, but were unwilling to follow because of some other competing, and ultimately controlling, affection (Matt 10:37-39; Luke 9:57-62; 18:23).

C. Repentant

These people were characterized by an absolute belief in Jesus and His message as well as a willingness to abandon all else and follow Him (Luke 5:28; 8:38-39; 18:43; 19:8). They are the ones who hear the word and obey it (Luke 8:21).

4. The Consistent Need for Clarity

As Christians we must strive to intentionally remain clear about the distinctions between the gospel and the effect that the gospel has upon the affections and actions of the believer. We must be those who are committed to making disciples by the proclamation of the gospel and then instructing them to obey the commands of Christ (Matt. 28:19-20). We are in serious danger if we confuse law for gospel or if our love for Christ is lost (Rev. 2:4).