

## Additional Introductory Thoughts about Luke

Introduction: We know that Luke is a doctor. “Luke, the beloved physician” (Col. 4:14). What kind of physician?

### A. A “Dietician” – he gives a lot of attention to feasting and eating.

1. Jesus’ eating in the home of a Pharisee (Luke 7:36-50).
2. Jesus’ eating in the home of a Pharisee on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1-24).
3. The Pharisees and scribes grumbled that Jesus received sinners and ate with them (Luke 15:1-2).
4. Luke is the only one who recorded Jesus’ story about the prodigal son, which ends with the father throwing a big feast for his son who returned home (Luke 15:11-32).
5. Luke is the only gospel writer that records the instance of Jesus inviting himself over to the house of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10). It doesn’t say that Zacchaeus fed Jesus, but I presume he would have done so.
6. Luke is the only gospel writer who reports on Jesus’ trip to Emmaus with Cleopas and another disciple. They encouraged Him to stay with them. When they were eating, He took bread and was blessing it and giving it to them when their eyes were suddenly opened and He vanished from their sight. (Luke 24:13-35)

### B. A General Practitioner

1. Luke is the only writer who records the fates of the rich man and Lazarus, the beggar who was covered with sores and who lay at the gate of the rich man hoping for some food (Luke 16:19-31).
2. Luke is the only writer who records the account of the ten lepers who stood at a distance and begged for mercy. Jesus healed all ten. Only one, a Samaritan, returned to thank him! (Luke 17:11-19).

### C. An OB/Gyn Doctor

1. Luke uses the term *bréphos* ([1025](#)), “infant” more often than any other NT writer. He uses it 5X in Luke
  - a. Luke 1:41 – the *baby* in Elizabeth’s womb
  - b. Luke 1:44 – the *baby* in Elizabeth’s womb
  - c. Luke 2:12 – angels to shepherds – “you will find a *baby* wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger”
  - d. Luke 2:16 – the shepherds “came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger”

- e. Luke 18:15 – “And they were bringing even their babies to Him so that He would touch them, but when the disciples saw it, they *began* rebuking them.”
  - f. And once in Acts 7:19 “It was he (Pharaoh) who took shrewd advantage of our race and mistreated our fathers so that they would expose their *infants* and they would not survive.”
  - g. The only other two uses are in
    - 1) 2 Timothy 3:15 – “and that from *childhood* you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
    - 2) 1 Peter 2:2 – “like newborn *babies*, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.”
- 2. Luke is the only Gospel writer that records “Birth Announcements” (Predictions) of both Jesus and His Herald, John the Immerser.**
- a. **The Announcement of John’s Birth to Zacharias (Luke 1:5-25)**
    - 1) The childless condition of Zacharias and Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-7)
    - 2) An angel’s prediction to Zacharias regarding his son (Luke 1:8-17)
      - a) His turning many in Israel back to God (Luke 1:8-16)
      - b) His serving as way-preparer for the Lord (Luke 1:17)
    - 3) Gabriel’s silencing of Zacharias for his unbelief (Luke 1:18-23)
    - 4) Elizabeth’s five-month seclusion during her pregnancy (Luke 1:24-25)
  - b. **The Announcement of Jesus’ Birth to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)**
    - 1) Gabriel’s promise to Mary of her Divine Son’s eternal rule from David’s throne (Luke 1:26-33)
    - 2) Gabriel’s informing submissive Mary of the sign of her pregnant relative Elizabeth (Luke 1:34-38)
  - c. **The meeting of the two pregnant women (Luke 1:39-56)**
    - 1) John’s leaping in Elizabeth’s womb at Mary’s approach (Luke 1:39-41a)
    - 2) Elizabeth’s Spirit-filled greeting of Mary, mother of the Lord (Luke 1:41b-45)
    - 3) Mary’s song: Her praise of God for uplifting her humble estate and helping Israel (Luke 1:46-55)

4) Mary's three-month stay and departure (Luke 1:56)

**3. Luke is the only Gospel writer who records the Births of both Jesus and also His Way-Preparer**

- a. The Birth of John, the Way-Preparing Prophet (Luke 1:58-80)
- b. The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-21)